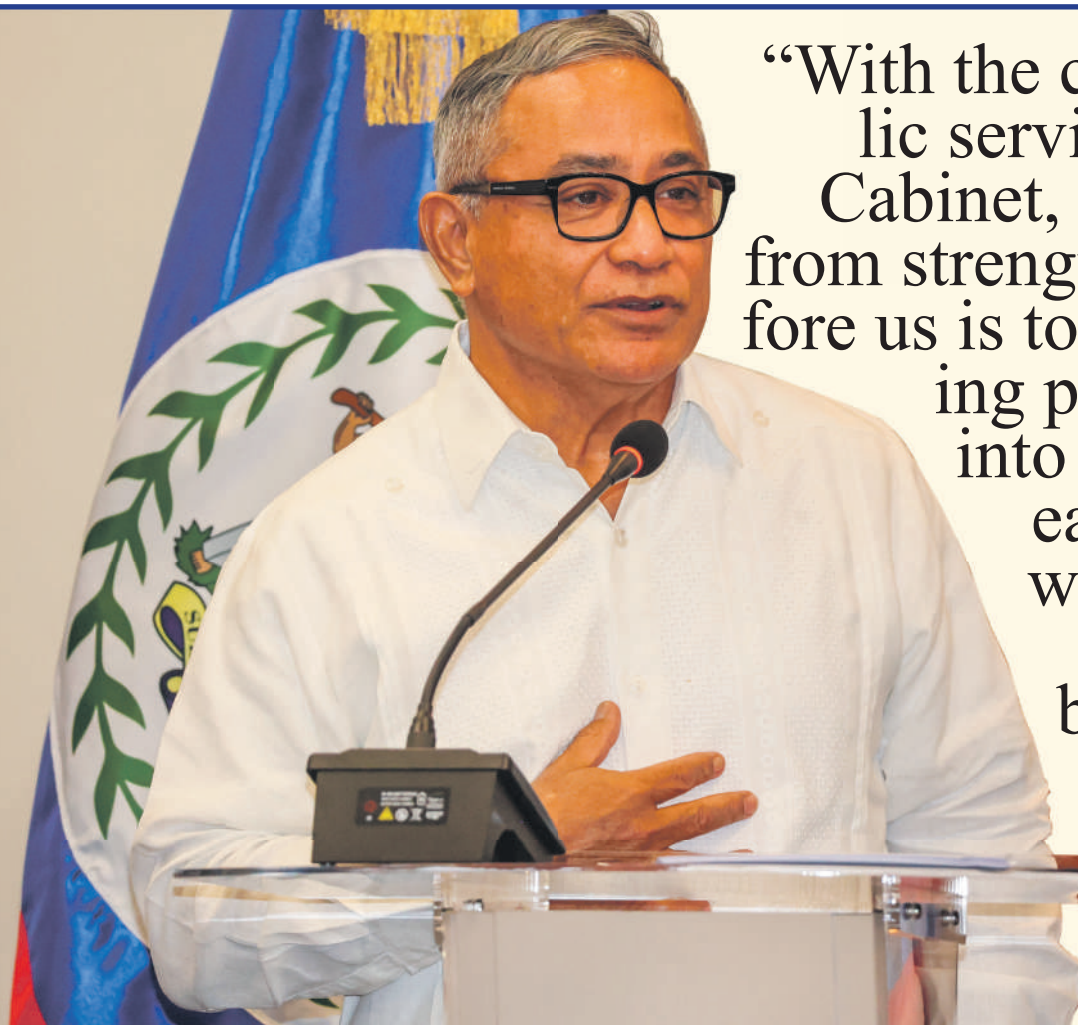




BUDGETING FOR PROSPERITY



“With the continued support of the public service, the private sector and the Cabinet, Belize will continue to stride from strength to strength... the work before us is to transform progress into lasting prosperity, to turn opportunity into achievement for more Belizeans...to make Belize a nation where every child can imagine a bigger future than the one before” – PM Briceño, Budget Speech 2026-2027 on Pg 7

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Budgeting for Prosperity

10th March – The newly renovated National Assembly building in Belmopan was ready to house its first Budget presentation. Democracy was at its prime: galleries were full of Belizeans, protestors outside were exercising one of the ways to getting heard, and Area Representatives were seated ready to participate in history. The Prime Minister John Briceño proposed a Budget of 1.902 Billion Dollars for the continued progress of a Belizean nation that has gotten accustomed to winning. “Budgeting for Belizean Prosperity” the title to the budget denoted the times. Belize is living in probably its current best time as a nation led by planBelize. Belizeans are working in record numbers. Job creation is at its optimal and the government keeps finding ways of creating new jobs to woo new workers into the workforce. MSMEs are thriving and leading Belize in employing more and more Belizeans. Health care, Education, Energy, Agriculture and Tourism are at levels never before seen with the National Health Insurance and Hospital construction, Free Education and More, Massive Solar Farm



intent on choking Belize to failure. Today’s remnant Barrow deplorables are intent in vandalizing anything that even seems like something good for Belize. These UDPs have corrupted the notion of being a sane Opposition. The main problem with the UDP is that there is no moral authority vested in their corrupt so-called leaders. So today, the Briceño administration is harnessed by their own Belizean people who are a real no-nonsense check and balance.

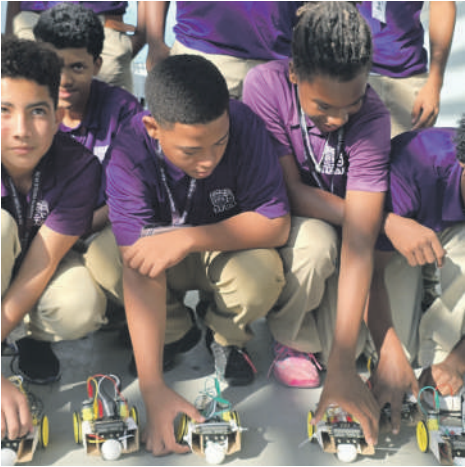


Great admiration and respect can be seen daily as the people throng around the Prime Minister as he lives among the people. Moreover, financial world adulation comes in the form of investor confidence which is at unprecedentedly high confidence levels. Key real world indicators of people and businesses winning are full shopping lanes, crowded weekend events, and non-stop construction at every corner of Belize.

The conclusion of the budget presentation said it best:



“Money chooses its host country and that choice is a clear indication of the so-called investment climate. This is the judgment I wish to highlight – the compelling flows of foreign direct investment which tell the story of



the brimming confidence in our country and economy.”

“In the last two years alone, calendar years of 2024 and 2025, Belize has benefited from approximately \$736 million of capital inflows while outflows, not counting the acquisition of the hydro facilities, totaled just \$231 million. Net investments flow therefore have been \$505 million or over half a billion dollars in just the last two years. This is neither accident nor aberration.”

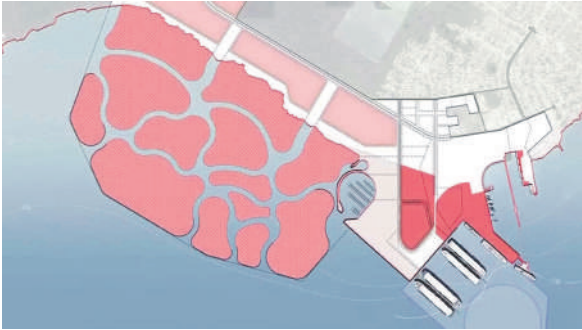
“A few weeks ago, I told the leaders of my party that the work before us is to transform progress into lasting prosperity, to turn opportunity into achievement for more Belizeans, and we will make Belize a nation where every child can imagine a bigger future than the one before. Yes, we may stumble. The ascent of the greatest empires has not been without falter. But the Belizean spirit will prevail and thrive. I am convinced that our best days are ahead of us.”

As is customary, the reading of the Budget is the official first reading of the 2026-2027 Revenue and Appropriations Bill. The 2nd reading and debate



will be held on March 23, 24, 25 which will begins with the Leader of the Opposition Tracy Panton as she attempts to rebut the massive people’s Bill. The past is behind us yet we will be fed remnants of the obscure past as they again try to fool the Belizean people. Nothing is expected of heckler Panton but she should be given a chance as the constitution mandates.

The work continues with the planBelize PUP and full team.



BELIZEANS NOW OWN A MAJOR SHARE OF NATIONAL POWER GENERATION

Government's share offer in the new Hydro Belize Limited was oversubscribed at the closing date of 20th January 2025. Applications which were paid up totaled over 4,452,000 shares (+ additional 185,200 shares to \$58). Equity sales generated \$125.1 million (+\$5.7 million for additional shares to \$58). Total proceeds from equity sales therefore amount to \$134.8 million.

The bond offering is expected to raise \$100 million to cover the buyback from OGB of the remaining shares. These shares will then be canceled. The purpose of these bonds, in addition to allowing Government to recoup the balance of the purchase price paid for the acquisition, allows institutional investors such as SSB, credit unions and banks to buy a long-term debt instrument.

Belize would have secured for more than two thousand local shareholders the source of some 30% of the country's power generation. All future profits will thus remain in Belize.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

OPM

The Belize Times

19 OCT 2025 | ISSUE NO. 5477 | The Truth Shall Make You Free | 19 OCT 2025 | ISSUE NO. 5477

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construction and ownership of Dams, Agric-Diversification and Efficiency making foreign exchange dividends, and Record Arrivals from Airlines and Overnight Stays, all respectively.

Credit goes to the people themselves and to the George Price-inspired planBelize that has ploughed Belize’s fertile fields of desire for a better life. As PM Briceño alludes to in his presentation of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2026-2027, in 2020, Belize had been infamously submerged into a recession and probably into an economic depression by a UDP-Barrow administration

EDITORIAL**Budgeting for Belizean Prosperity**

Belize's prosperity is built on diversified growth, robust employment, a strong currency, ample credit, and government investment in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and security. On each, Belize is exceeding regional performance, and these pillars drive the nation's continued advancement.

On the 10th day of March, Prime Minister John Briceño proposed a budget of 1.902 Billion Dollars for the continued progress of a Belizean nation that has gotten accustomed to winning. Credit goes to the people themselves and to the George Price-inspired planBelize that has ploughed Belize's fertile fields of desire for a better life. As PM Briceño alludes to in his presentation of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2026-2027, in 2020, Belize was infamously submerged in a recession and, by a UDP-Barrow administration intent on choking Belize to failure, probably in an economic depression. Today's remnant Barrow acolytes are intent on vandalising anything that even twinkles like progress. These UDPs have corrupted the notion of a sane Opposition capable of seriously and prudently proposing alternatives. The main problem with the UDP is that there is no moral authority vested in its corrupt actors, the remains of a Party that sarcastically grieved for a Belize it had pummeled to near death. So today, the Briceño administration is held to account by the Belizean people, who serve as a real check and balance.

Great admiration and respect are evident daily as people throng around the Prime Minister, who lives among them. Moreover, the financial world's adulation manifests as investor confidence at unprecedentedly high levels. Key real-world indicators of people and businesses winning are full shopping lanes, crowded weekend events, and non-stop construction at every corner of Belize.

Looking back: the 2021 budget of "Today's Sacrifice: Tomorrow's Triumph" is coming to fruition with even new seeds sprouting into saplings. In 2023, Belizeans were using the new term 'post-pandemic', and the Government moved from recovery from the UDP to a more wholesome 'Delivering on PlanBelize'. In 2024, Prime Minister Briceño could announce that Belize's planBelize was world-recognised as the best practice, and he could propose a budget "From Promise to Performance" as the Jewel was fervently glistening. The challenge to the Briceño government and people is to keep it there and move horizontally and vertically "from strength to strength."

The conclusion of the budget presentation said it best: "First and foremost, Government must meet its payroll and pension obligations to the 15,000 public officers, teachers and security personnel. These professionals at all levels fulfil the Government's mandate to manage the affairs of the State and to provide services to all 420,000 citizens. This single cost of wages and pensions represents 44 cents of every dollar collected by the State. Next are operational costs, including utilities and supplies, which take up another 15 cents of every dollar. What remains must be allocated judiciously to supporting other core obligations, such as subsidies for tertiary education through the University of Belize and tertiary healthcare through the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. And then there is the 11 cents of every public dollar directed to repay interest on the public debt."

"Our policy is for this generation to fund its own welfare, not to borrow from our children. Our goal is for future generations to benefit from our foresight and sacrifice, not to impoverish our children and grandchildren for our benefit. The fact is that in our mixed economy, the Government's role is, in some instances, augmented or superseded by the private sector and non-profit actors. When Government leads by example, when it manages the public purse prudently, its conduct inspires confidence, which in turn can multiply development through private investments."

"Money chooses its host country, and that choice is a clear indication of the so-called investment climate. This is the judgment I wish to highlight – the compelling flows of foreign direct investment which tell the story of the brimming confidence in our country and economy."

"In the last two years alone, calendar years of 2024 and 2025, Belize has benefited from approximately \$736 million of capital inflows, while outflows, not counting the acquisition of the hydro facilities, totalled just \$231 million. Net investment flows, therefore, have been \$505 million or over half a billion dollars in just the last two years. This is neither an accident nor an aberration. This unprecedented investment flow is an unmistakable signal that our policies have inspired trust, trust in our laws and courts, trust in our financial system and currency, trust in the long-term sustainability of our economy and yes, trust in the administration of the State by this PUP government."

"A few weeks ago, I told the leaders of my party that the work before us is to transform progress into lasting prosperity, to turn opportunity into achievement for more Belizeans, and we will make Belize a nation where every child can imagine a bigger future than the one before. Yes, we may stumble. The ascent of the greatest empires has not been without falter. But the Belizean spirit will prevail and thrive. I am convinced that our best days are ahead of us."

This statement encapsulates the central goal: transforming Belize's progress into lasting prosperity.

en Español**Presupuesto Para la Prosperidad de Belice**

La prosperidad de Belice se basa en un crecimiento diversificado, un empleo sólido, una moneda fuerte, un crédito amplio y la inversión del Gobierno en educación, sanidad, infraestructuras y seguridad. En cada uno de estos ámbitos Belice supera el rendimiento regional y estos pilares impulsan el avance continuo de la nación.

El 10 de marzo, el primer ministro John Briceño propuso un presupuesto de 1.902 millones de dólares para el progreso continuo de una nación beliceña que se ha acostumbrado a ganar. El mérito es del propio pueblo y del planBelize inspirado por George Price que ha labrado los fértiles campos del deseo de Belice por una vida mejor. Como alude el primer ministro Briceño en su presentación de las estimaciones de ingresos y gastos para 2026-2027, en 2020 Belice se vio sumida en una recesión y, por culpa de una administración del UDP-Barrow empeñada en ahogar a Belice hasta el fracaso, probablemente en una depresión económica. Los actuales acólitos de Barrow se empeñan en destrozarse cualquier cosa que parezca un atisbo de progreso. Estos miembros del UDP han corrompido la noción de una oposición sensata capaz de proponer alternativas de forma seria y prudente. El principal problema del UDP es que sus corruptos actores carecen de autoridad moral, los restos de un partido que lloró sarcásticamente por un Belice al que había golpeado hasta casi matarlo. Así que hoy en día, el pueblo beliceño, que actúa como un verdadero contrapeso, exige responsabilidades al Gobierno de Briceño.

La gran admiración y el respeto son evidentes a diario, ya que la gente se agolpa alrededor del primer ministro, quien vive entre ellos. Además, la adulación del mundo financiero se manifiesta en una confianza de los inversores a niveles sin precedentes. Los indicadores clave del mundo real que evidencian el éxito de las personas y las empresas son las calles comerciales llenas, los eventos multitudinarios los fines de semana y la construcción incesante en cada rincón de Belice.

Mirando hacia atrás: el presupuesto de 2021 de «El sacrificio de hoy: el triunfo de mañana» está dando sus frutos, con nuevas semillas que brotan y se convierten en árboles jóvenes. En 2023, los beliceños utilizaban el nuevo término «pospandemia» y el Gobierno pasó de la recuperación del UDP a un «Cumplimiento del Plan Belice» más amplio. En 2024, el primer ministro Briceño pudo anunciar que el plan Belice era reconocido mundialmente como la mejor práctica y proponer un presupuesto «De la promesa al rendimiento», mientras la Joya brillaba con fervor. El reto para el Gobierno de Briceño y el pueblo es mantenerlo así y avanzar, horizontal y verticalmente, «de fuerza en fuerza».

La conclusión de la presentación del presupuesto la expresó muy bien: «En primer lugar, el Gobierno debe cumplir con sus obligaciones salariales y de pensiones respecto de los 15 000 funcionarios públicos, profesores y personal de seguridad». Estos profesionales de todos los niveles cumplen el mandato del Gobierno de gestionar los asuntos del Estado y prestar servicios a los 420 000 ciudadanos. Este único coste de salarios y pensiones representa 44 céntimos de cada dólar recaudado por el Estado. A continuación, vienen los gastos operativos, incluidos los servicios públicos y los suministros, que suponen otros 15 céntimos por dólar. Lo que queda debe asignarse de manera juiciosa para financiar otras obligaciones fundamentales, como las subvenciones a la educación terciaria a través de la Universidad de Belice y la asistencia sanitaria terciaria a través del Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. Y luego están los 11 céntimos de cada dólar público destinados al pago de los intereses de la deuda pública».

«Nuestra política es que esta generación financie su propio bienestar, sin pedir prestado a nuestros hijos». Nuestro objetivo es que las generaciones futuras se beneficien de nuestra previsión y sacrificio, sin empobrecer a nuestros hijos y nietos en beneficio nuestro. El hecho es que, en nuestra economía mixta, el papel del Gobierno se ve, en algunos casos, aumentado o sustituido por el sector privado y por los actores sin ánimo de lucro. Cuando el Gobierno da ejemplo, cuando gestiona con prudencia el erario público, su conducta inspira confianza, lo que a su vez puede multiplicar el desarrollo a través de inversiones privadas».

«El dinero elige su país de acogida y esa elección es un claro indicio del llamado clima de inversión». Esta es la valoración que deseo destacar: los convincentes flujos de inversión extranjera directa que reflejan la desbordante confianza en nuestro país y en nuestra economía».

«Solo en los dos últimos años, los años naturales 2024 y 2025, Belice se ha beneficiado de aproximadamente 736 millones de dólares en entradas de capital, mientras que las salidas, sin incluir la adquisición de las instalaciones hidroeléctricas, ascendieron a solo 231 millones de dólares». Por lo tanto, los flujos netos de inversión han sido de 505 millones de dólares, es decir, más de 500 millones únicamente en los dos últimos años. Esto no es ni una casualidad ni una aberración. Este flujo de inversión sin precedentes es una señal inequívoca de que nuestras políticas han inspirado confianza, confianza en nuestras leyes y tribunales, confianza en nuestro sistema financiero y nuestra moneda, confianza en la sostenibilidad a largo plazo de nuestra economía y, sí, confianza en la administración del Estado por parte de este gobierno del PUP».

Hace unas semanas, dije a los líderes de mi partido que la tarea que tenemos por delante es transformar el progreso en prosperidad duradera, convertir las oportunidades en logros para más beliceños y hacer de Belice una nación en la que todos los niños puedan imaginar un futuro mejor que el anterior. Sí, es posible que tropecemos. El ascenso de los grandes imperios no ha estado exento de tropiezos. Pero el espíritu beliceño prevalecerá y prosperará. Estoy convencido de que nuestros mejores días están por llegar».

Esta declaración resume el objetivo central: transformar el progreso de Belice en prosperidad duradera.

2026 BELIKIN LA RUTA MAYA BELIZE RIVER CHALLENGE ROOTED IN CULTURAL HERITAGE & TRADITION



La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge has been transformed from honouring the tradition of the ancient river routes that were used by the Maya civilization for trade and connectivity, into a kaleidoscope of colourful paddlers and canoes with teams challenging themselves along the 170-mile journey from San Ignacio to Belize City. The race which began in 1998 and started with the idea of Richard Harrison and the race director, Mike Green, is embedded in Belize’s rich history and tradition. It is a four-day endurance test for race seekers, including professionals, novices, and international enthusiasts taking on the Belize Old River challenge. Considered one of Belize’s biggest sporting competitions, it includes female, male and mixed teams of all ages competing for the grand prize in various categories.

The race started on Friday from the foothills of the iconic suspension Hawkesworth Bridge on the banks of the Macal River, at the sounding of the cannon at 7: 00 am, with the paddlers launching their powerful strokes downriver. It begins the four days of celebration and “it is more than just a



race” and represents communities coming together with families and friends in the spirit of oneness along routes of the riverbank in an unforgettable experience. The event allows travellers and visitors alike to enjoy the magnificent, scenic beauty of village life and the rich cuisine Belize has to offer. There are four main viewing



stops along the course of the race. It begins and culminates with ‘pre-watch’ and ‘after’ soirees. After the overnight camping and partying on the banks of the river in San Ignacio, the race meanders through the river to the first stop at Banana Bank, then onto the village of Double Head Cabbage and then to Burrell Boom, with this year’s official finish line in the rapids of the Haulover Creek at the Grand Resort and Residencies Hotel in Belize City nestled by the Caribbean Sea. Incidentally, approximately thirty paddlers after completing the race, in



great showmanship, took to the canal under the Mangrove cathedral and paddled to the Belcan Bridge to an appreciative and cheerful crowd that swamped the edge of the Belize Civic Center. The entire race provided the country, the city, the entrepreneurs, especially, the MSMEs and the organisers, and sponsors with an economic boost throughout the entire La Ruta Maya event. The eventual winner was the PACT on TRACK team, with a clean sweep of all 4 stages of the 2026 La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge led by paddlers Christian Lopez, Enrique Cruz, and Amado Cruz. *By Hilly Bennett*

PACT on Track
Christian Lopez(bow), Enrique Cruz(stern), and Amado Cruz(middle)
La Ruta Maya RC 2026
Grand Champion(s)
The BTB and other GoB Sponsors extend CONGRATULATIONS!



After four days of intense competition, the La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge officially came to an end today with a closing ceremony celebrating the incredible paddlers, teams, and communities that brought this iconic race to life for its 29th year. As a proud sponsor, the BTB congratulates all paddlers who participated in this year’s challenge, including this year’s grand champions, Pact on Trak, who took home the Kinich Ahau trophy. Your strength, teamwork, and perseverance along the Belize River truly embodied the spirit of this historic race.(BTB post)

RIVER VALLEY READY for RUTA MAYA

Double Head Cabbage Vendor stalls gets major renovation in preparation for La Ruta Maya. As one of the major economic opportunity activities in the



River Valley, the upgraded 13 stalls facility was surely welcomed by residents and will be used more often in the Annual calendar. This venue will also now be used for other River Valley initiatives including the recently relaunched Market Day in collaboration with the Community Baboon Sanctuary. The Work Continues in Belize Rural North! (Hon. Leal post)

BARON BLISS HARBOR REGATTA 2026

Although March is synonymous with the La Ruta Maya River Challenge, this year Baron Bliss Harbor Regatta took center stage preceding the river challenge on the day before, on the 8th March this year.



The 9th of March is celebrated today as Heroes and Benefactors Day which has evolved from Baron Bliss Day. The day was set aside to honor the Baron, Henry Edward Ernest Victor Bliss, who visited



the Jewel in 1926 in his yacht Sea King 11, and left over \$1 million in financial assets to Belize. The funds were earmarked to invest in infrastructure and agriculture and a hundred pounds to be used for prize money in an annual regatta. March 9th became a national holiday. Notwithstanding, the pomp and circumstances surrounding the holiday, it was the splendour of the regatta in the Belize City Harbour that became the most fulfilling event for seafarers and pleasure craft enthusiasts. The official ceremony took place at the gravesite of Baron Bliss and included the Governor General, H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam, the official patron of the annual Baron Bliss Harbour Regatta and the Belize Defence Force (BDF) Guard of Honor. Mayor Bernard Wagner joined in the wreath-laying ceremony. A post of the Belize City Council defines the moment as an annual observance honouring the legacy of Baron Bliss and a moment of national reflection and remembrance. Nonetheless, this year’s event took a momentous twist through the collaborative efforts of Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council and the Baron Bliss Harbour Regatta Committee, with the Baron Bliss Harbour Regatta Festival on the Seashore Drive Strip. In the early part of the day, the



spectators lined the coast to witness the sailors take on the strong March winds in the harbour. Belizeans came together in a community spirit and enjoyed a fun-filled day of live entertainment, local entrepreneurs selling their wares and a kiddie zone, ensuring fun for the entire family. The winners were presented with their medals and trophies in celebration of their outstanding performance on the race course at sea. It was a memorable day of community engagement, culture and a first-of-its-kind seaside festival. The occasion also represented confidence in the Belizean economy and the power of the Belizean people’s spending power. Kudos to the Mayor and the BCC and the regatta committee. A full display of the city council’s mantra “Always ‘Bout the People”. *By Hilly Bennett*

Launch The Future is Robotic National VEX Training Initiative



STEM and robotics education in Belize are set to reach new heights, thanks to a groundbreaking partnership between the Ministry of E-Governance, the Robotics Federation of Belize, and Vex Robotics. Vex Robotics, a leader in innovative educational technology from the United States of America, joins forces with local organizations



to spark curiosity and empower Belizeans with essential digital skills. This collaboration will open doors for students across the country, providing hands-on tools for engineering, computing, and cybernetics, all aligned with national priorities such as Plan-Belize 2.0 and the National Digital Transformation Strategy. At the launch event, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño connected with some of Belize's brightest young innovators, who shared their passion and excitement for robotics. (GoB press office post)

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, CEO Jose Urbina, President of the Belize Robotics Federation, Mrs. Jamie Lee Usher along with other national partners, partook and witnessed the signing of a landmark agreement between the GoB and the Belize Ro-

botics Federation. This was the roll out of VEX robotics training through Digital Connect Centers across the country. Joining them were Councillors Stephanie Hamilton, Allan Pollard, and Malcolm Nunez who proudly represented the Belize City Council at the MOU Signing and VEX Robotics Showcase held at the Fort George Digital Connect Center in Belize City. The event also featured exciting student robotics showcases and live demonstrations, highlighting the creativity, talent, and innovation of Belize's young robotics enthusiasts as the country continues to expand opportunities in STEM and digital learning. (BCC post)



PUBLIC NOTICE

**LODGEMENT OF AN EIA REPORT AND
PUBLIC CONSULTATION
FOR
PORT OF BELIZE LTD.
FOR A PROPOSED CARGO EXPANSION AND CRUISE
PORT DEVELOPMENT ON CAESAR RIDGE ROAD, PORT
LOYOLA, BELIZE CITY**

The General Public is hereby advised that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for a proposed cargo expansion and cruise port development project located on Caesar Ridge Road, Port Loyola, Belize City, Belize District, has been submitted by Port of Belize Ltd. to the Department of the Environment (DOE). While the EIA report is a technical document, it contains an executive summary which provides an overview of the project and its potential environmental impacts. The EIA report will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The general public is also informed that the EIA report is available for public review, free of charge, from March 5 to April 1, 2026 (Monday- Friday) during the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the following locations:

1. Port Loyola Public Library in Belize City
2. Belize National Library Service and Information System in Belize City
3. Leo Bradley Library in Belize City
4. Turton Library Center in Belize City
5. The DOE's office at 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan.

The EIA report is also available on the DOE's website at the link: https://doe.gov.bz/?post_type=wpdmpro&p=17128&preview=true and https://doe.gov.bz/?post_type=wpdmpro&p=17130&preview=true. The public is invited to submit their comments in writing on or before April 1st, 2026, to the DOE Office in Belmopan or email: envirodept@environment.gov.bz; eiaunit@environment.gov.bz, and link: <https://forms.gle/z2TLsyapL1PZMGZj8>.

Kindly be informed that a hybrid public consultation (in-person and virtual) for the EIA report will be held on March 25th, 2026, commencing at 7:00 pm. The in-person consultation will be held at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza, 3.5 Miles Phillip Goldson Highway, Belize District and an online link will be provided near the date via the DOE's Facebook Page, for those who will participate virtually. The consultation will also be streamed live via the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook Page.

The General Public is invited to attend in person or participate online, to make comments, ask questions, seek clarification, and/or provide input regarding this proposed project.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)



**Extension Officer - Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries
(MAFSNGI)**

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Sustainable and Inclusive Belize
Process ID: BL-L1041 – P00064
Duration: Eighteen (18) months
Duty Station: Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI), Central Farm, Cayo, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: April 8, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project "Sustainable and Inclusive Belize".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of an "Extension Officer". This position will support the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI).

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-sib-extension-officer-ministry-of-agriculture-food-security-and-new-growth-industries-individual-consultant-bl-11041-p00064-mof-sib-2026/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz





REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

DATA ANALYST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460804-CS-INDV
Duration: Eighteen (18) Months
Duty Station: Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation – Belize City, Belize
Deadline: March 25th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) **(EXTENSION)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project” being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of a “Data Analyst” for the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sr. Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: Individual Consultancy – “Data Analyst” – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant’s Name].



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)/
DATA SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI-CEU-522797
Duration: Eighteen (18) Months
Duty Station: Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation, Belize City, Belize
Deadline: March 25th, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) **(EXTENSION)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project” being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.”

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of a “IT/Data Systems Technician” for the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sr. Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: Individual Consultancy – “Information Technology (IT)/Data Systems Technician” – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project– [Applicant’s Name].

CARTOON

UDPs GOT TO GO AWAY

UDP ALWAYS CORRUPT



“Budgeting for Belizean Prosperity”

BUDGET SPEECH 2026/2027 (excerpts)

Hon. John Briceño

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation,

Civil Aviation and E-Governance

National Assembly, Belmopan

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Madam Speaker,

I rise to introduce the Budget Appropriations Bill for the Fiscal Year 2026/27. In tabling these estimates of revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year, I will also report on the performance of the current Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/26.

We live in an age of instant communications, with social media platforms providing constant news from every corner of the globe. The flood of news, the reels and posts, more often than not, indicate the turbulence of our age. And turbulence by its very nature has a disproportionate impact on small, open economies such as ours.

I heard firsthand about the volatile effects of our turbulent age in the recent meeting of CARICOM Heads of State where colleagues shared, often times with immense anxiety, the complex challenges they face in maintaining stability while meeting the soaring demands of their people. In this period of widespread upheaval, or more pointedly, what the Canadian Prime Minister recently described as a period of rupture, the proud truth is that Belize continues to shine as a distinctive land – steadfast, resilient and future-focused. Let me tell you why I can make this claim. For our nation to benefit from the sunshine of tomorrow, we must first lay the most durable seeds today. And that is exactly what this Administration has been doing tirelessly since November of 2020. The seeds have started to sprout, stirring our nation to a seminal surge in prosperity. The pillars of sustained prosperity include diversified growth, robust employment, a strong currency, ample credit and a government that invests in the welfare of its people through education, healthcare, infrastructure and security. On each of these scores, Belize is surpassing regional performance.

Last year, our economy grew by 1.9%. This year, the projection is 2.3% growth. The latest employment report by the Statistical Institute of Belize shows a historic low of 2.0 %. In other words, 98 of every 100 who sought work, found work. The Belize dollar remains firmly fixed to the US dollar at 2 to 1, backed up by \$1.1 billion in Central Bank reserves and \$737.5 million in commercial bank external assets. The public debt, as a percentage of GDP, has been cut in half since 2020. Credit outstanding from the commercial banks to the private sector stood at \$2.8 billion reflecting growth in the 2025 of 7.6 percent. And the commercial banks currently hold \$720.2 million in excess liquidity, available to the private sector to grow the economy and raise employment even higher.

Finally, total government spending for fiscal year 2025/26, ending on March 31, will be \$1.68 billion, representing 24.1% of annual gross domestic product. Of this amount, \$275.3 million would have been spent on education, \$146.2 million on the healthcare system including the NHI, \$130.5 million on infrastructure and \$218.0 million on public security.

In the upcoming fiscal year, public officers, teachers and security personnel, will benefit from another 4.0% in salary increases, valued at \$28.5 million on an annual basis. This will be in addition to last year’s increase of 4.5% or some \$31.5 million. In total, government has pledged wage and pension increases valued at \$78.7 million for this fiscal year, surely an impressive adjustment by any measure.

These are the clear and compelling reasons I can confidently assert that Belize is distinguishing itself among small nations in our hemisphere and our world. Today’s Budget proposals will lift even higher our standing and spirits, fulfilling this government’s commitment to boosting prosperity and opportunity for every Belizean.

International and Domestic Developments: In 2025, the global economy advanced with resilience, despite uneven growth across regions. The world navigated a more fragmented international landscape, marked by heightened uncertainty, strains on the rules-based order, and more pronounced great-power rivalry. Rising protectionist measures and renewed tariff disputes triggered sharp market reactions, pushing equity prices lower and tightening borrowing conditions as markets rapidly repriced risk. Cross-border financial flows were similarly affected, underscoring how swiftly geopolitical developments can influence global stability. These developments echoed warnings that economic tools—including tariffs and coercive trade practices— were increasingly being used as instruments of geopolitical competition. Even so, trade in technology- linked and advanced-manufacturing goods remained relatively resilient, helping to cushion weaker performance in other sectors of advanced economies. (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/PM-Budget-Speech-Fiscal-Year-2026-2027.pdf>)

Domestic Developments, Real Sector Performance: Within this evolving global environment, Belize’s economy continued its steady forward movement. Real GDP growth for 2025 is estimated at 1.9 percent by the Central Bank of Belize, a moderation from the 3.5 percent expansion in 2024. Our nation is transitioning from the rapid post-pandemic rebound toward more sustainable, pre-pandemic growth conditions. The primary sector—our agriculture, fisheries, and mining industries—was the main driver of this expansion. Farmers and producers delivered strong outputs across corn, soybeans, bananas, citrus, livestock and marine products. These gains were significant enough to offset the sharp decline in sugarcane production caused by adverse weather and the spread of the *Fusarium* disease. Their resilience reflects not only hard work but also the deep strength of Belize’s rural economy.

The secondary sector—our construction, utilities, and manufacturing industries—grew at a more modest pace. Activity remained supported by expansion in the construction industry and gains in water services. However, contractions in electricity production from renewable sources and declines in food manufacturing, particularly in sugar, molasses, citrus juices, flour, and beverages, tempered overall performance.

The tertiary sector—the various service industries that drive our economy—also slowed. Weaker tourism and subdued wholesale and retail trade weighed on overall activity. Nonetheless, other key private service industries—particularly financial intermediation and Business Process Outsourcing—continued to post strong, encouraging gains.

Inflation and Labour Market: In 2025, Belizean households experienced a meaningful easing of price pressures. Inflation fell to 1.1 percent, down sharply from 3.3 percent in 2024 and the near-record high of 6.3 percent in 2022, supported by lower fuel and communication costs and the continued normalization of international supply and freight conditions. . .

I would like to list just few of these programs, allowing the substantive Minister to provide greater detail during his or her presentation:

For Infrastructure Development:

- \$21.9 million for the upgrading of the George Price Highway from Belize City to Belmopan
- \$8.0 million for the upgrading of the Philip Goldson Highway from Mile 8 to Mile 24
- \$4.0 million for Specialized Equipment
- \$8.0 million for Low Income housing
- \$4.6 million for the Santa Familia Bridge

- \$3.8 million for the replacement of the Belize City Swing Bridge

- \$3.5 million for the replacement of the BELCAN Bridge

- And, a combined total of some \$46 million for the continued maintenance of roads, streets, and drains countrywide.

Other significant allocations include: (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov>)

Madam Speaker, as we present the financial roadmap for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, we do so with an unwavering commitment to the health of our people—because access to quality healthcare is a right, not a privilege. In the People’s United Party, we believe strongly that our health is our wealth!

Since taking office in November 2020, we committed ourselves to revitalizing the National Health Insurance program—not just as a funding system, but as a national promise to deliver affordable, dependable, and life-changing care. . .

Through the NHI program for the period 2020-2025, 7,629 patients underwent diabetic eye exams. Of these, 1092 patients got cataract surgery, and an additional 735 patients went through retinopathy laser surgery. 2,267 adults obtained eyeglasses to significantly improve their eyesight and likewise 1,953 school children that needed eyeglasses received theirs. . . . once 80,000 eligible residents of the Cayo district are registered, we will have 325 thousand registered and active users of the NHI services countrywide. (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov>)

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our development partners for their contribution to this high priority project and for their continued support to the development of Belize. I wish to thank by name, Government and People of the Republic of China (Taiwan) , the Government and People of Japan, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Kuwait Fund, and the OPEC Fund. (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov>)

Investments in Education and Education Statistics: From Transformation to Impact: Advancing MoRE Priorities in Belize’s Education System 2026–2027

The 2026/2027 fiscal budget signals a decisive shift toward delivering measurable results and strengthening overall system performance, marked by the launch of the Belize Education Sector Plan 2026–2030. This budget moves beyond planning to purposeful implementation, ensuring that reform efforts translate into real and sustainable impact. The Ministry of Education’s allocations are strategically directed toward maximizing efficiency, enhancing accountability, and improving budget performance, with a clear focus on achieving tangible gains in access, quality, equity, and relevance across the education system. These investments are firmly aligned with the national development priorities outlined in **#PlanBelize**.

As we look ahead to the next fiscal year, beginning in April 2026, this Government will further position the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade as a strategic engine of national development. Our diplomacy is not just about representation—it is about delivering results for Belizeans, at home and abroad.

First, the Ministry will strengthen Belize’s Missions overseas to provide faster, more efficient, and citizen-focused services. (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov>)

Second, following the achievement of our first successful election to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) that has elevated Belize profile, we will expand Belize’s diplomatic footprint in regions of opportunity. (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov>)

Third, we will refocus Belize’s international cooperation programme around our national priorities: infrastructure development, health system strengthening, education and human capital formation, and energy expansion. (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov>)

The International Partners Conference platform will be central to this effort—a structured, results- oriented mechanism to align assistance with our national development framework, improve project preparation, and ensure donor support matches Belize’s priorities.

We will continue to secure grants and concessional financing for climate-resilient infrastructure, strengthening of our health systems, technical and vocational education relevant to the green and digital skills needed, renewable energy integration, and e-mobility infrastructure. (see more at <https://www.pressoffice.gov>)

Diplomacy is no longer behind the scenes—it is at the forefront of Belize’s growth.

Conclusion:

Madam Speaker, Today’s budget proposals have been crafted after careful consideration of the state’s most urgent and most vital obligations. Let me say what everyone knows: there is never enough money to fund every program, so tough choices need to be made at Budget time. First and foremost, Government must meet its payroll and pension obligations to the 15,000 public officers, teachers and security personnel. These professionals at all levels fulfill government’s mandate to manage the affairs of the state and to provide service to all 420 thousand citizens. This single cost of wages and pensions represent 44 cents of every dollar collected by the State. Next are operational costs, including utilities and supplies which take up another 15 cents of every dollar. What remains must be allocated judiciously to supporting other core obligations such as subsidies for tertiary education through the University of Belize and tertiary healthcare through the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. And then there is the 11 cents of every public dollar directed to repay interest on the public debt. Very little is left thereafter. And so, from multilateral lenders and bilateral partners, Government effectively finances all capital investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, housing, security and so forth. There is clearly a limit to this capacity to borrow and that limit is tied to our capacity to repay.

Our policy is for this generation to fund its own welfare not to borrow from our children. Our goal is for future generations to benefit from our foresight and sacrifice not to impoverish our children and grandchildren for our benefit. The fact is that in our mixed economy, Government’s role is augmented, in some instances, superseded by the private sector and non-profit actors. When Government leads by example, when it manages the public purse prudently, its conduct inspires confidence, which in turn can multiply development through private investments. Money chooses its host country and that choice is a clear indication of the so-called investment climate. This is the judgment I wish to highlight – the compelling flows of foreign direct investment which tell the story of the brimming confidence in our country and economy.

In the last two years alone, calendar years of 2024 and 2025, Belize has benefited from approximately \$736 million of capital inflows while outflows, not counting the acquisition of the hydro facilities, totaled just \$231 million. Net investments flow therefore have been \$505 million or over half a billion dollars in just the last two years. This is neither accident nor aberration. This unprecedented investment flow is an unmistakable signal that our policies have inspired trust, trust in our laws and courts, trust in our financial system and currency, trust in the long term sustainability of our economy and yes, trust in the administration of the state by this PUP government. I am exceedingly confident that these successes will grow exponentially. With the continued support of the public service, the private sector and the Cabinet, Belize will continue to stride from strength to strength.

A few weeks ago, I told the leaders of my party that the work before us is to transform progress into lasting prosperity, to turn opportunity into achievement for more Belizeans, and we will make Belize a nation where every child can imagine a bigger future than the one before. Yes, we may stumble. The ascent of the greatest empires has not been without falter. But the Belizean spirit will prevail and thrive. I am convinced that our best days are ahead of us.

And with the guidance of the Almighty we will not stand still but move boldly towards tomorrow. Madam Speaker I recommend this Budget and ask all Members for their consideration and support.

Roberto “Marky” Peyrefitte

Serving the House with Honor

March 10, 2026 - The House of Representatives convened for its sitting on March 10th for the reading of the 2026–2027 national budget, and on that day, Roberto “Marky” Peyrefitte carried out an important ceremonial duty, substituting as Mace Bearer of the National Assembly. He described the opportunity simply as an honor to serve during the significant parliamentary session.

The role of the Mace Bearer holds deep symbolic meaning within Belize’s parliamentary tradition. The Mace itself represents the authority and dignity of the Speaker and the legitimacy of the proceedings in the House of Representatives. According to the Standing Orders of the House, the Mace must be present at every sitting, as the House cannot conduct its business without it.

The Mace of the National Assembly of Belize has a unique history. It was crafted from mahogany that once grew on the grounds of Government House in Belize City before the tree was blown down during the devastating hurricane of 1931. The ceremonial piece was later presented to the Legislative Council on January 18, 1952, by Sir Ronald Garvey.

Carved on the head of the Mace are the arms of the colony and three defining moments in Belize’s history: the first settlement in 1638, the Battle of St. George’s Caye in 1798, and the establishment of the Crown Colony in 1871. Along its shaft appear the names of Belize’s six districts—Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo. The Mace was manufactured in June 1951 by craftsmen R. N. Downes, L. R. Perera, and G. P. Gough Turner.

During parliamentary sessions, the Mace Bearer precedes the Speaker during the opening and adjournment of the House. When the House is in session, the Mace rests on the Clerk’s Table pointing toward the government side.

As Peyrefitte stepped into the ceremonial role for the budget sitting, it was also a moment to acknowledge the service of long-time Mace Bearer Henry Mortis. To Mortis, all the best.

Congratulations, “Marky”!



RECORD INVESTMENT SIGNALS GLOBAL CONFIDENCE IN BELIZE

This single cost of wages and pensions represent 44 cents of every dollar collected by the State.

In the last two years alone, calendar years 2024 and 2025, Belize has benefited from approximately \$736 million of capital inflows, while outflows totaled just \$231 million.

Net investment flows therefore reached \$505 million — over half a billion dollars in just two years.

This unprecedented investment flow is an unmistakable signal that our policies have inspired trust in our laws and courts, trust in our financial system and currency, and trust in the long-term sustainability of our economy.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

BUDGET 2026

Belize INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

Happy SOCIAL WORKERS DAY

March 17, 2026

Today we recognize and celebrate the dedicated Social Workers across Belize who serve our communities with compassion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment.

Thank you for the difference you make every day.

Ministry of Human Development,
Family Support and Gender Affairs

A vibrant, colorful illustration of a diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities smiling and hugging each other. The background is filled with small hearts and stars, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere.

Advocacy and Hypocrisy Masquerading as Journalism

The story surrounding severance payment for former employees of BTL is one that has exposed glaring hypocrisy by certain sections of the media, particularly one vociferous news director who is always beefing. Although the story is not about him nor the rest of the media, the public does have a right to know, so they have a duty to tell, as he himself once put it.

At the center of scrutiny is, of course, the sanctimonious senator who claims he so loves the former workers of BTL that he has been championing their cause and their case to collect, and providing legal advice to them free of cost in their negotiations with the company.

Lo and behold, it turns out Senator Glenfield Dennison has submitted an invoice to BTL seeking to charge the company upwards of 183 thousand dollars for the “free” advice he claimed to be providing to those former workers through the so-called Belize Communications Workers for Justice (BCWJ), which represents less than half of the more than 500 former workers that qualified for severance payments.

It’s important to note that payments have already been settled with some of those former employees and that BTL in a press conference two weeks ago invited the remainder of those who qualify to submit their requests and relevant information so they can individually collect. BTL has extended the goodwill even to those who technically fell outside the standard six-year limitation period.

It was therefore confounding to say the least that Dennison and those leading the BCWJ insisted on continuing their protest action despite BTL’s unequivocal, overwhelming show of goodwill. But it all started to make sense with the revelation of Dennison’s outrageous invoice purporting to charge for “free” legal advice at the rate of \$900 an hour. Those, incidentally, are senior counsel rates, and Dennison is no senior council.

Also, it turns out the purported Tax Identification Number (TIN) on the invoice submitted by Dennison is NOT registered with G.S.T, which also raises questions about whether he is licensed with the Financial Intelligence Unit (F.I.U). And then there is the question of whether Dennison as a publicly paid Crown Council in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is in violation of Public Service Regulations which explicitly state, “A judicial and legal officer shall not engage in any private legal work or private business of a legal nature.”

Also as concerning is the fact that agents of the BCWJ are seeking to obtain from the former workers they claim to represent full authority to claim and collect their severance payments on their behalf. A letter to this effect, drafted by those BCWJ agents and circulated to the former workers for their signature, has similarly surfaced. It explicitly, reads, “I, the undersigned, hereby authorize Belize Communications Workers for Justice and its agents, namely Ms. Emily Turner and Mr. Michael Augustus, to claim and act on my behalf all monies due to me as severance pay and interest... I am giving my authority to the bearers of this letter to claim and receive the money on my behalf.”

In an overly generous 8-minute story aired by the news station alluded to at the beginning of this article, Dennison and those agents of the BCWJ were afforded ample opportunity to wiggle themselves out of the pickle in which they find themselves, but they woefully failed to do so. The pointed questioned were never asked, and we do not expect that they will, as that particular station and its news director and owner clearly have no desire to expose the facts or get to the bottom of the truth, because it simply does not suit the narrative

they are determined to advance. What they are practicing is not objective reporting, but advocacy and hypocrisy masquerading as journalism. (Contributed Article)

Chair Pitts Coming Up

Documents have been leaked showing how the sanctimonious Chair of the former mass Party the UDP has done well in “volunteering” for the PCC. For Context, the PCC is the group that the Prime Minister has charged to make a submission and recommendations on possible changes/amendments to the Belize Constitution. This is a gargantuan proposition and in essence it is all hands on deck. The commission is doing its best to be as broad as possible in its consolation for the benefit of Belize.

But somehow attorney Sheena Pitts found out how to wiggle law consultation fees out of a commission that

PCC PAYMENTS TO SHEENA PITTS			
DATE	SHEENNA PITTS	AMOUNT PAID	METHOD OF PAYMENT
5/28/24	Thematic Committee Meetings - Chairperson for May 2024 - \$2,145, and attendance May 3,7,14,18 & 28, 2024 = \$3,645.00	\$3,645.00	GEN/PCC/1/01/23 Vol. IV (32) Smart Stream
8/20/24	Member of RULE OF LAW/ JUDICIARY COMMITTEE attended the PCC Thematic Meeting on 6th, 10th, 17th & 20th August 2024.	\$1,00.00	GEN/PCC/1/01/24 Vol. V (20) Smart Stream

was to voluntary for her as UDP rep. The PCC and her work as attorney give out an aura of conflict. Did Sheena the UDP divest herself from the volunteer work from the PCC? How can she be handling PCC documents and also collecting

ala Dennison. Jeez!! They give the perception of helping and, the next thing, they are tantamount to the worse. Are you an attorney or an advocate for the UDP? Sheena Pitts attorney collected a little over 80 thousand dollars from the people’s purse.

2/14/25	Attendance on December 14 a... \$1,200.00 + a balance due from December 13, 2024 = \$1,100.00 = \$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	Cheque #0345 (Cashed cheque)
	Cross-referencing, compiling, reading, editing, numbering, and ensuring the First Draft is easily readable and digestible in identifying the various recommendations @ \$22,000 less \$300.00 for overpayment in December 2024 - \$21,700.00 + \$2,712.50 = \$24,412.50	\$24,412.50	Cheque #0364
TOTAL:		\$80,362.50	



BOLEDO

Boledo Ticket No: 2c9fd84b8f3a
09d3018f9aa6159000d
Sold: May 21, 2024, 9:00:43 AM
Print: May 21, 2024, 9:02:56 AM
Draw: May 21, 2024, 9:10:00 PM
Master Agent: District Distributor
Sold By: Local Agent
Phone: 6609009
Address: Winner Street, Belmopan, Cayo

NUMBER	PIECES
07	10



1 3

ONE BOLEDO TICKET MAKES A BIG IMPACT!

Every Boledo ticket purchased helps
support health and sports in Belize

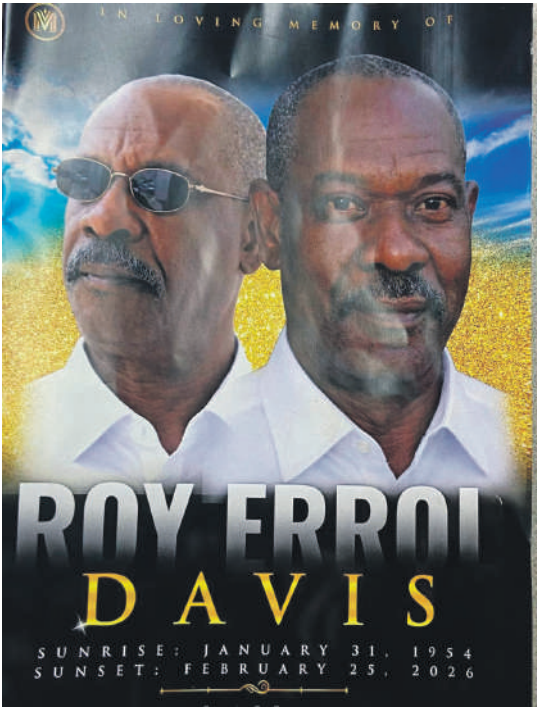


**BELIZE GOVERNMENT
LOTTERIES LTD.**

Players must be 18 years or older. Play responsibly.

Excerpt from Eulogy

Roy Errol Davis
March 6, 2026



Roy Errol Davis was born on January 31, 1954 in Belize City to his late parents Mazie Williams and Elmer Davis. Roy was raised by his mother and his Granny Madeline both of whom he loved dearly. Roy was the second of his mother’s five children and her first son. He graduated from St. John’s Primary School and St. Michael’s College. After high school, Roy briefly worked as a government clerk in Belmopan. He then migrated to the United States, and after about two years returned to Belize where he would live the remainder of his life.

Roy was an avid reader and prolific writer. He authored many books including “All In One” which told funny, intricate and colorful stories of the wily folklore character Br. Anansi and his archrival Br. Tiger. Never one to shy away from expressing his opinions on the travesties that bedeviled the world, Roy wrote many poems – many of which spoke out against injustices and gave voice to the underprivileged.

Roy also wrote for many media houses including the Belize Times. As a journalist, Roy often captured the essence of human triumphs and tragedies. In court rooms, Roy listened carefully, wrote precisely and reported fearlessly. With a camera in his hand, Roy froze time so others could hold on to it and their stories forever. He captured milestones, smiles and lasting memories that families will remember for generations.

--The Belize Times wishes to express our condolences to Roy’s family and friends. He was always willing to seek out the background to any story and he was a master of the written word.

EXPANDING NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACROSS BELIZE

Through the NHI program for the period 2020–2025, 7,629 patients underwent diabetic eye exams. Of these, 1092 patients got cataract surgery, and an additional 735 patients went through retinopathy laser surgery. 2,267 adults obtained eyeglasses to significantly improve their eyesight and likewise 1,953 school children that needed eyeglasses received theirs. NHI provides Ophthalmology services partnering with BCVI and the private sector. This progress is the foundation upon which we now build.

this fiscal year 2026–2027 is for expansion and investment of NHI. We are moving from stabilization to strategic expansion. This budget allocates \$57 million to deepen the NHI’s impact. Our focus will be two-fold. First, we are expanding NHI coverage to include the entire Cayo District, finally offering services to the whole country. Once the 80,000 eligible residents of the Cayo district are registered, we will have 325 thousand registered and active users of the NHI services countrywide.

BUDGET presentation 2026

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

OPM
Office of the Prime Minister

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Transparency Officer

Position	Senior Transparency Officer
Project	“Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize” (also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background

Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belize is obligated to participate in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), a central mechanism designed to provide robust, transparent, and comparable information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation efforts, and support provided or received. The ETF also establishes procedures for international technical expert review and is integral to the global stocktake process that assesses collective progress towards the Agreement’s long-term goals.

Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities. The country has submitted key climate reports to the UNFCCC, including its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in line with ETF requirements. Despite this progress, Belize’s existing systems and capacities require further consolidation to consistently meet ETF requirements and ensure high-quality, timely, and systematic reporting. To address these gaps, Belize is implementing its first CBIT project— Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. This initiative aims to strengthen the national transparency system through the development of an integrated Transparency Management System, enhanced data modules (e.g., GHG emissions, adaptation, NDC tracking), and improved institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement.

Therefore, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a Senior Transparency Officer who will play a pivotal role in supporting Belize’s transition toward a fully operational and sustainable national transparency framework, ensuring compliance with the ETF under the Paris Agreement and enabling the Government of Belize to generate high-quality, reliable climate information for both national policy-making and international reporting.

B. Scope of work

The Senior Transparency Officer will coordinate the strategic development and institutionalization of Belize’s transparency system whilst providing research, technical expertise and guidance for products to be developed under the CBIT project, as well as technical expertise and strategic guidance on monitoring, reporting, and verifying climate change-related measures for both policies and projects throughout the CBIT project.

C. Tasks description

- i. Oversight of CBIT technical work being carried out under consultancies in alignment with the TOR.
- ii. Develop an ETF compliance document that lists the requirements and timings, organizations responsible for outputs, datasets and data provider tools and expertise needed as per the ETF under the Paris Agreement.
- iii. Oversee design, enhancement, and sustainability of the Transparency Management System
- iv. Ensure integration of mitigation, adaptation, NDC tracking, and climate finance modules.
- v. Provide high-level technical review and validation of reporting outputs while ensuring consistency, comparability, and completeness.
- vi. Lead high-level engagement with ministries, statutory bodies, and key stakeholders.
- vii. Guide capacity-building initiatives for sectoral data providers.
- viii. Provide mentorship and technical direction to ensure operational efficiency of the outputs to be produced under consultancies
- ix. Coordinate meetings with stakeholders in each of the sectors for the discussion, analysis and elaboration of the outputs of the CBIT project
- x. Provide technical assistance to all stakeholders involved in the Transparency
- xi. Collaborate with local entities involved in climate change information management to develop the outputs of the project.
- xii. Support the preparation and data gathering of all CBIT annual/year-end project revisions and CBIT project reports
- xiii. Provide support for the development, administration, management and improvement of Belize’s Transparency Management System
- xiv. Assist in the preparation of UNFCCC reporting preparation through CBIT deliverables as it relates to transparency and MRV sections/requirements
- xv. Facilitate the mainstreaming of transparency and MRV through use of the climate change policy framework and NDCs into key sectoral policies and strategies
- xvi. Provide technical support to the Belize National Climate Change Committee and Working Groups when necessary
- xvii. Undertake any other tasks as may be reasonably assigned by the Project Director and the Chief Technical Advisor in support of the NCCO and CBIT implementation.

D. Institutional arrangements

The Senior Transparency Officer will work under the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project and other technical counterparts who will have information related to the purpose of the position. The Chief Climate Change Officer/Project Director will supervise the day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the consultancy to ensure that the activities are achieved.

E. Duty Station

The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management.

F. Qualification and Experience

Academic Qualifications

- i. Bachelor’s degree in environmental science, environmental management/studies, social sciences, public policy, economics, statistics/ data science or a related field is required.
- ii. Training/ certification in results based management, climate finance tracking, MRV Systems or data QA/QC systems is an asset.

Experience

- i. Minimum of 5 years’ professional working experience in environmental or climate change governance, climate data systems, MRV systems, environmental monitoring and evaluation
- ii. Experience working with data platforms, databases or structured reporting tools to manage climate of development related datasets across multiple institutions.
- iii. Experience working with government and other sector agency stakeholders facilitating institutional coordination.
- iv. Experience leading or coordinating Multi stakeholder technical processes like working groups, technical/ oversight committees or stakeholder consultations, including facilitating meetings and follow-through to deliver outputs.
- v. Experience developing or applying MRV methodologies, QA/QC procedures and standardized documentation would be an asset.
- vi. Experience supervising consultants or technical teams to ensure deliverables are met and ensuring quality and timeliness, etc. would be an asset

G. Skills and Knowledge

- I. Excellent written and verbal English skills
- II. Interpersonal and teamwork skills to work collaboratively
- III. Sound knowledge of climate change concepts, including mitigation, adaptation and crosscutting issues
- IV. Familiarity with Belize’s national climate change frameworks including its NDCs
- V. Familiarity with adaptation M&E frameworks.
- VI. Awareness of international climate processes and frameworks under the UNFCCC would be an asset
- VII. Planning, organizing, and analytical skills.
- VIII. Result-oriented, flexible, and problem-solving skills.
- IX. Knowledge of the GHG inventory, QA/QC, IPCC guidelines

H. Abilities and Competencies

- i. Strategic thinking
- ii. Leadership and supervision
- iii. High-level stakeholder engagement
- iv. Ability to work under tight reporting timelines
- v. Attention to detail and quality assurance

I. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

- a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;
- b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),
- c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details

Applications should be identified as –“Application for Senior Transparency Officer – *Your name*” in the subject matter of the email. All Applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:

Chief Climate Change Officer
National Climate Change Office
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District
Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm**. Late submissions will not be considered.

The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.

The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

Swearing-In Fort George United Women’s Group Chapter

March 4 - the new Fort George United Women’s Group Chapter was officially sworn in. “Congratulations to the incredible women stepping up to lead! Your energy and commitment are the heart of our community and your willingness to dedicate your time, and energy speaks volumes about the spirit of the women in Fort George. I must also express my profound gratitude to Ms. Yolanda Fonseca for her exemplary service during her tenure as president; her leadership has established a solid foundation for the future of the Fort George UWG. Thank you also to ODS Chairlady, Ms. Leni Jo Usher, for administering the oath, and to the National President of the United Women’s Group, Ms. Carla Bradley, for her presence. I look forward to working alongside these women as we continue

the vital work in our constituency. Together, we will move forward in unity and service.” - Hon. Henry Usher

Happy Women's Month

Balance the Scales

Together, let us balance the scales by championing fairness, amplifying women's voices, and ensuring equal opportunities in every space where decisions are made.

From Hon. Henry Charles Usher & the Fort George PUP Executive Committee

HIGH COURT OF BELIZE A.D. 2025

(DIVORCE)

ACTION NO. 321 OF 2025

(WILWORD HUBERT PINTO	PETITIONER
(	
BETWEEN (	AND
(	
(EMMA EDITH PINTO	RESPONDENT

TO: EMMA EDITH PINTO somewhere in Belize or Honduras

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for dissolution of marriage endorsed with a notice to you to appear and answer the charges therein has been filed in the High Court of Belize by the petitioner, **WILWORD HUBERT PINTO** of No. 2 K Street, Kings Park, Belize City, Belize and that you are required, within (28) days of the first publication hereof to enter an appearance at the office of the Registrar of the High Court in Belize City, Belize should you think fit so to do and thereafter to make answer to the charges in the said Petition and **FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** that in default of your so doing the Court will proceed to hear he said charges proved and pronounce judgement your absence notwithstanding.

This Petition is filed and this Notice to appear is issued by **SABIDO & COMPANY LLP** of No. 5 New Road, Belize City, Belize, Attorneys-at-Law for its Petitioner **WILWORD HUBERT PINTO**.

Dated this 3-day of March, 2026.

REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT

Note. Any person entering an appearance must as the same time furnish an address for service within two miles of the High Court.

HON. JOHN BRICEÑO &
THE ORANGE WALK CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

PRESENTS

NIGHT Market

MARCH 14TH
6PM- 12 MIDNIGHT
PHILLIP ALVAREZ PARK
ORANGE WALK TOWN

+501 670-5057
FOR BOOTH INFORMATION & BOOKING

VACANCY NOTICE:

Caribbean Sprinter Ltd. is seeking a motivated, **bilingual** and customer-focused **Data & Communication Specialist** to join our team.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume to:

jobs@sprinter.bz

NORTHERN MEDICAL Specialty PLAZA

ORCHID DRIVE, B.S.I. AREA,
ORANGE WALK TOWN, BELIZE
PHONE: 302-3708

Northern Medical Plaza invites applications from experienced, dynamic, energetic, self-motivated and professional individuals for the following vacancy:

Registered Nurse (Valid Nurse License)
Practical Nurse (Valid Nurse License)
Gynecologist (Medical Council License)
Xray Technician (Ministry of Health License)

Knowledge & Skills
Excellent communication skills both written and oral
Computer literate prefer working knowledge of Microsoft word, excel or access.
Ability to work well with staff and peers on a professional and personal level.

Requirments
Willing to work flexible hours
High level of customer services
Implement policies, procedures and protocols
Ensure compliance with nursing standards
Ability to work well with staff and peers on a professional and personal level.
Fluent in English and Spanish both written and oral

Applications close: March 15, 2026
Please submit application letter and two References to:
northernmedicalhrdept@gmail.com
General Manager
Northern Medical Specialty Plaza Ltd.
Orchid Drive, BSI Area
Orange Walk Town

WORK CONTINUES IN 2026

PM John Briceño



Partnering for the future



Kicking off the John Briceño U-13 Football Tournament

National Heroes and Benefactors Day Ceremonies



Governor General Tzalam Presiding



Hon. Dolores Balderamos-Garcia



Mayor of Belize City, Bernard Wagner



Belize Defence Force Salute



Wreath-Laying at the Bliss Tomb

A People's Race - Ruta Maya

Congratulations to ALL involved!

Overall Champion PACT on TRACK



Hon. Marconi Leal, Belize Rural North



Preparation for La Ruta Maya



"Balance the Scales" - Hon. Monchi and OW Town Council



Strong Girls, Empowered by Beads



A Few PlanBelize Starter Homes



Corozal Bay (Hon. Garcia Ramirez)



Belize Rural Central (Hon. Balderamos Garcia)



Port Loyola (Hon. Usher)



Collet (Hon. Daly)



Belmopan (Hon. Mira)

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

26TH COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS MEETING:

The Commonwealth at a Moment of Strategic Opportunity



By Hilly Bennett
 Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Education, Culture, Science and Technology, represented Belize at the 26th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) that was held on March 8, 2026, at Lancaster House in London, United Kingdom. Belize became the 47th member after attaining its independence on September 21, 1981. Hon. Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molio'o, Finance Minister of Samoa, chaired the session.

The meeting was convened under the theme *"The Commonwealth at a Moment of Strategic Opportunity"* bringing Foreign Ministers from across the Commonwealth. Primarily, the meeting's objective was to drive reform and renewal amid global fractures. FM Fonseca delivered interventions on the ongoing Commonwealth reform and renewal process, emphasising the importance of strengthening cooperation and ensuring

that the Commonwealth remains responsive to the priorities of its member states. Incidentally, the CFAMM precedes the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled for 1-4 November 2026 to be held in Antigua and Barbuda where the focus will be on *"Accelerated Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth"*.

In her opening remarks, the Chair, Minister Mulipola reflected on developments since CHOGM 27th in Samoa saying "As we continue the journey from Samoa to Antigua and Barbuda, we must pause and reflect on the Commonwealth, and its role in a rapidly changing global environment. As the retreat theme suggests, the Commonwealth is at a moment of strategic opportunity".

Foreign Ministers and other officials from across the Commonwealth consistently addressed the transformation of the Commonwealth to overcome the challenges of a world in turmoil and focused on reform, re-

newal, and building resilience, navigating a "fast-changing international landscape" and a "fractured global climate" and to ensure that the 56-member organisation remains relevant and effective. The new Commonwealth Secretary-General, Hon Shirley Botchwey, reflected on the state of the Commonwealth and the impetus to reposition the Commonwealth in an ever-changing complex global environment. Secretary-General Botchwey said "Renewal will not come from declarations alone. It will come from coalitions that are willing - and able - to translate shared values into coordinated action. The Commonwealth is such a coalition."

During the deliberation under the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister, Hugh Todd updated fellow member states on the ongoing Guyana-Venezuela controversy, providing an overview of developments relating to the Guyana-Venezuela territorial dispute. Similarly, Belize's Foreign Minister, Francis Fonseca updated his Commonwealth counterparts on the Belize-Guatemala territorial matter that is before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). FM Fonseca in his delivery said *"Madam Chair, it is always important for us to update Commonwealth Foreign Ministers on the Belize-Guatemala relations. We count on the long-standing support of the Commonwealth for which we are grateful. The bilateral relations remain friendly and positive. Just last month the Foreign Minister of Guatemala visited Belize. He and I had a very detailed discussion on challenges along the border, the need for a cooperation mechanism for the Sarstoon, the need to cooperate on combatting drug trafficking, the important role played by the OAS and the opportunities to strengthen trade and cooperation."* Notwithstanding the friendly, constructive, and forward-looking dialogue, Fonseca registered his disappointment that on the day of the meeting, the Guatemalan military was aggressing the Belize Defence Force on the southern boundary of the Sarstoon River.



Fonseca submitted that *"It is clear that despite the good intentions of the political leadership to cooperate with Belize, other elements are undermining those efforts."* Belize awaits the decision of the ICJ on the matter. The Commonwealth is the coalition that remains steadfast in its support for Belize's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and security.

Undoubtedly, Belize's territorial dispute with Guatemala will be brought up and ventilated at the CHOGM in November of this year. Ministers and Heads of Delegation also deliberated on policy priorities leading up to the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda.

NOTICE

Request for Prequalification (RFPQ)

Utility-Scale Solar PV Projects in Belize (80 MW)

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), in partnership with the Government of Belize (GoB) through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics (MPUEL), and with advisory support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), invites qualified private-sector developers to participate in a Request for Prequalification (RFPQ) for landmark utility-scale solar PV projects in Belize.

To deliver this initiative, the GoB has engaged the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, acting through its Advisory Services division, as lead transaction advisor. The Project is being structured under the globally recognized Scaling Solar initiative, which promotes an open, competitive, and transparent procurement process to accelerate the deployment of privately owned utility-scale solar projects.

Procurement Process

The RFPQ represents the first stage of a competitive bidding process. Its purpose is to prequalify developers with the technical experience, financial capacity, and delivery capability required to implement large-scale solar PV projects within an accelerated timeframe. Only prequalified bidders will be invited to participate in the subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) stage.

Project Overview

Total Capacity:
Up to 80 MW of grid-connected utility-scale solar PV

Sites:
3 to 4 locations across Belize

Commercial Structure:
Independent Power Producer (IPP) model

Role of the Private Sector:
Design, finance, construct, own, operate, and maintain the solar PV facilities

Objectives of the Project

This strategic investment is a cornerstone of Belize's energy transition and is intended to:

Increase renewable energy generation to support Belize's target of 75% renewable electricity by 2030

Reduce foreign exchange outflows associated with electricity imports

Strengthen national energy security and system reliability

Access to RFPQ

The full RFQ document, including eligibility criteria, submission requirements, and timelines, is available at:

www.bel.com.bz/Tenders

Belize is open for clean energy investment. Qualified developers are encouraged to participate in this transformative project that will shape the country's sustainable energy future.

HON RAMIRO RAMIREZ & CZL SOUTHWEST

HOST SUCCESSFUL AGRICUTURAL & TRADE SHOW



The village of San Narciso in the Corozal District was filled with activities and excitement for its two-day Agriculture and Trade Show on Saturday and Sunday March 7th and 8th. The event was organized by Hon Ramiro Ramirez Area Representative Corozal South West and Minster of State for Sustainable Development, Climate Change, & Solid Waste Management.

In his address to the enthusiastic crowd Area Representative Hon Ramiro Ramirez reminded everyone that for continued progress in the country the farmers should always be remembered. He also noted that he has made good on his promise to provide a fire truck for the division, and pledged to do everything possible to ensure the Escuela Secundaria in San Narciso is upgraded to a university ASAP.

Other speakers at the event included Hon. Gilroy Usher Minister of State for Public Utilities ,Energy, and Logistics, Hon Alex Balona Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, and Mayor Rigoberto Vellos of Corozal Town. Special Guest for the occasion was Florencio Marin, Sr veteran Minister of Government and Area Representative for Corozal South West and later Corozal South East for decades.

Attractions at the Agriculture and Trade Show included display of livestock and plants by cooperatives, young entrepreneurs, and well established farmers. Other attractions included marching bands, cultural presentations, rides, and food court among other things.

Belize is very satisfied with this event and cannot wait for the National one.



Internet access will be expanded across 283 schools.

Benefiting over 78,000 students and more than 4,500 teachers, with an investment of approximately 2 million dollars per year.



National Gender Expert



Position	National Gender Expert
Project	"Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize" (also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project)
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background

Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belize participates in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), which requires Parties to provide transparent information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation actions, and support provided or received. Effective implementation of the ETF not only requires strong technical systems, but also inclusive, participatory approaches that ensure equitable engagement of women and men and the integration of gender considerations into climate policies and reporting processes.

Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities. The country has submitted key climate reports to the UNFCCC, including its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in line with ETF requirements. To further enhance institutional capacity and ensure that transparency systems are inclusive and sustainable, Belize is implementing its first Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project—Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. The project includes a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to promote gender-responsive implementation, equitable participation in capacity-building activities, and the integration of gender considerations across all components of the project.

In this context, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a National Gender Expert to ensure the effective mainstreaming of gender throughout project execution. The role will be critical in ensuring that the project contributes to equitable outcomes, strengthens inclusive participation in the national transparency system, and aligns with national and international commitments to gender-responsive climate action.

B. Scope of work

The National Gender Expert is expected to effectively mainstream gender into the project execution. The person appointed will be responsible for the deployment and monitoring of the project's Gender Action Plan and ensuring that gender is integrated throughout the implementation of the project activities.

C. Tasks description

- Lead on the execution of the project's Gender Action Plan, implementing activities and monitoring risks related to gender
- Assess and develop recommendations for designing a gender-responsive transparency system
- Perform thorough research on the national circumstances related to gender and provide the information required to be able to capture gender inequality in Belize's climate actions as well as design elements concerning the system's outputs
- Liaise with the relevant contact at the NCCO aspects related to gender
- Ensure that all project activities are aligned to all relevant gender policies from the TOR, UNEP and the GEF
- Assess and identify potential gender-differentiated impacts of the project
- Collect sex-disaggregated baseline data that could be used to monitor potential gender impacts, identifying and documenting existent information gaps. Identify metrics required to ensure gender alignment of the project's knowledge management processes
- Identify and liaise with government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations, and women's associations or groups whose work focuses on gender and the specific area of intervention that can be utilized during project preparation and implementation
- Support the National Climate Change Office in the execution of additional tasks as mandated by management

D. Institutional arrangements

The National Gender Expert will report to the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project The Chief Climate Change Officer/Project Director will provide overall oversight of day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the project to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

E. Duty station

The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management located in Belmopan, Belize.

F. Qualification and Experience

Academic Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in gender studies, social sciences, environmental science, environment/ climate policy, public policy, development studies, international development, or a related field is required.
- Training or certification in gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, GBV risk mitigation, social inclusion or results-based management will be an asset.

Experience

- Minimum of 2 years of experience working in gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, gender-responsive planning, capacity building, or related areas
- Experience integrating gender considerations into policies, projects, or programmes
- Experience working with gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation frameworks will be an asset.
- Experience liaising and coordinating with government agencies, NGO's, community-based organizations, women's groups and other stakeholders.
- Experience facilitating stakeholder consultations and trainings

G. Skills and Knowledge

- Knowledge of gender-related requirements under international climate frameworks, will be an asset
- Excellent written and verbal English skills.
- Strong facilitation and moderation skills
- Interpersonal and teamwork skills to work collaboratively
- Sound knowledge of climate change concepts, including mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting issues will be an asset
- Familiarity with Belize's national climate change frameworks including its NDCs will be an asset
- Awareness of international climate processes and frameworks under the UNFCCC will be an asset
- Planning, organizing, and analytical skills.
- Result-oriented, flexible, and problem-solving skills.
- Strong analytical and report writing skills
- High level of cultural sensitivity and inclusiveness

H. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

- A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;
 - A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),
 - Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details
- Applications should be identified as – "Application for National Gender Expert – Your name" in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:

Chief Climate Change Officer
National Climate Change Office
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District
Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm**. Late submissions will not be considered.

The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.

The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

High-Level Bilateral Meetings in El Salvador Partial Scope Update

Plus Economic and agricultural development, regional integration, climate finance, and education exchange, including scholarship opportunities main discussion points

The Government of Belize, represented by Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, conducted a series of high-level bilateral meetings in San Salvador, El Salvador, on March 6, 2026. The delegation also included Ambassador Lou-Anne Burns Martinez and Mr. Leroy Martinez, Acting Director of the Climate Finance Unit.

The engagements provided an opportunity to strengthen Belize’s diplomatic and development partnerships while exploring areas of mutual cooperation and shared priorities. During the visit, Minister Martinez held discussions with several senior government and institutional representatives.

During a meeting with H.E. Dr. Félix Ulloa, Vice President of El Salvador, discussions focused on opportunities for collaboration in economic and agricultural development, regional integration, climate finance, and education exchange, including scholarship opportunities. Vice President Ulloa provided an update on the Partial Scope Agreement between Belize and El Salvador and encouraged the continued sharing of experiences to identify additional areas of co-operation. The discussion also explored the establishment of a Climate Finance Unit in El Salvador and opportunities for collaboration on climate-smart agriculture initiatives.



Minister Martinez also met with Mrs. Ingrid Figueroa, Executive Director of the Central American Integration System (SICA). Discussions centered on Belize’s upcoming assumption of the Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT) of SICA. Mrs. Figueroa highlighted Belize’s unique role in fostering collaboration between SICA and CARICOM member states. Belize emphasized the importance of strengthening regional integration efforts, particularly in improving connectivity through road infrastructure, expanding commerce and tourism, and facilitating the efficient movement of people and goods across the region.

In a separate meeting with Dr. Federico Rivera, Director General of the Council of Ministers of Finance of Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (COSEFIN), the Belize delegation received an update

on COSEFIN’s “Cargo Pass” initiative, which aims to assess, design, and implement dedicated one-way lanes for cargo trucks at border points to ease traffic congestion and improve the efficiency of regional trade. Discussions also addressed opportunities for collaboration on regional climate finance initiatives, knowledge exchange among member countries, and Belize’s upcoming Pro Tempore Presidency of COSEFIN from July to December 2026.

The delegation also met with H.E. Mr. Kwak Taeyeul, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to El Salvador, where discussions explored opportunities for strengthening bilateral cooperation and mobilizing grant and highly concessional financing. Priority areas for potential collaboration include upgrading healthcare facilities, wastewater management infrastructure, and the establishment of a forensic laboratory in Belize.



Additionally, Minister Martinez met with Dr. Lourdes Gonzales, Director of ONU Mujeres, where discussions focused on initiatives supporting women entrepreneurs. The meeting explored opportunities to share best practices, strengthen linkages, and develop joint activities aimed at advancing women’s economic empowerment in Belize and the wider region.

The Government of Belize looks forward to continued engagement with its international partners as it works to strengthen cooperation, mobilize development support, and advance national priorities for sustainable economic transformation. The Government of Belize also extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of El Salvador for its warm hospitality and the courtesies extended to the Belize delegation during the visit. (release)

Cost Effective Healthy Meals

10 UNDER



Enchiladas



Oats with Banana



Tuna Salad



Garnachas



Burrito



Gacho



Scrambled Eggs with Chaya or Spinach



Sandwich



Beans & Corn Tortilla



Vegetable Rice & Stew Beans

Facts on the BTL and Severance Issue

Min. Michel Chebat, Public Utilities,
Energy & Logistics

Based on Presentation
Sitting of the House of Representatives
March 10, 2026

1. CCJ delivered its judgment in **Erven Marin Et al v Belize Telemedia Limited** on November 5, 2025. The Court ordered BTL to pay severance payments to the Appellants in Erven Marin Et al v BTL, plus interest and costs.
2. All severance payments, interest and legal costs which BTL was ordered by the CCJ, to pay under the Erven Marin Et al v BTL judgment, were paid in full, by BTL, in November 2025.
3. BTL has also processed severance payments for all former BTL employees who qualify for severance payment under section 183 of the Labour Act, and whose employment at BTL ceased within the last 6 years.
4. BTL's Board of Directors has been advised on the 6-year limitation period prescribed by section 4 of the Limitation Act, by external counsel And Internal Legal Counsel. That advice is that the 6-year limitation period prescribed by section 4 of the Limitation Act applies to severance payments under Part XV of the Labour Act.
5. In February 2026, BTL's Board of Directors decided that it is in the best interests of BTL, for BTL to pay severance payments to BTL's former employees who meet the requirements under section 183 of the Labour Act, for severance payments, but who are now statute barred by the 6-year limitation period at section 4 of the Limitation Act. The Board of Directors is of the considered opinion that paying severance payments to former BTL employees who are now statute barred is in the best interest of BTL because amongst other things:
 - a. It avoids BTL spending money on legal fees in protracted severance litigation;
 - b. It shows that BTL values the contributions of BTL's former employees;
 - c. It reinforces BTL's commitment to good employer-employee relations;
 - d. It makes it more likely that BTL's former employees who qualify for severance payments, but who are now statute barred, will continue patronizing BTL's business and continue to be customers of BTL;
 - e. It maintains BTL's good corporate image which BTL values and safeguards; and
 - f. It brings finality on the matter of severance payments by BTL and allows BTL to place even more focus on BTL's business and BTL's commercial strategies that are aimed towards promoting the success of BTL, for the benefit of BTL's shareholders.
6. BTL's Board of Directors has decided that interest will be paid by BTL on severance payments paid to former BTL employees who are now statute barred by the 6 year limitation period, at the rate of 6% per annum from November 5, 2025 (Date of CCJ judgment in Erven Marin Et Al v BTL) up to and including date of payment. BTL has decided to pay interest notwithstanding that such statute barred employees have not filed any claim at the High Court of Belize and notwithstanding that interest paid under section 175 and 176 of the Senior Courts Act is paid at the Order of the Court, and a Court has not ordered BTL to pay interest on such sums.
 - a. BTL's decision to voluntarily pay interest without an Order of the Court, from November 5, 2025, is also based on the consideration that pre-judgment interest is awarded at the discretion of the Court, and BTL is, by paying interest from November 5, 2025, to date of payment, awarding interest which may not necessarily be awarded by the Court if such former employees were to file a claim at the High Court and succeed in that claim.
7. BTL is currently reviewing for the purpose of processing severance payments, the employment records of BTL's former employees who meet the requirements under section 183 of the Labour Act, for severance payments, but who are now statute barred by the 6-year limitation period at section 4 of the Limitation Act.
8. The Belize Communication Workers for Justice ("BCWJ") is a group of former employees of BTL who have organized themselves for the purpose of requesting severance payments for their membership.
9. BTL and BCWJ entered negotiations with BTL regarding severance payments to BTL's former employees who meet the requirements under section 183 of the Labour Act, for severance payments, but who are now statute barred by the 6-year limitation period at section 4 of the Limitation Act.
 - a. Negotiations took place on February 17, 2026 and February 23, 2026.
 - b. Negotiations broke down due to the failure by BCWJ and BTL to agree on the interest rate, and because BCWJ included a proposal for BTL to pay BCWJ's legal costs. Legal costs were not on the negotiation agenda.
 - c. Negotiations broke down, notwithstanding the fact that BTL improved BTL's offers during the negotiations, while BCWJ maintained its negotiation position.
10. Some of BCWJ's members are former BTL employees whose employment at BTL ceased more than 6 years prior, in circumstances described at section 183 of the Labour Act. BTL has decided that such members of the BCWJ will be paid severance payments plus interest at 6% per annum from November 5, 2025, to date of payment. BCWJ's members are to be paid severance payment, by BTL, in the same manner in which BTL will be making payments to all other former employees of BTL who meet the requirements under section 183 of the Labour Act, for severance payments, but who are now statute barred by the 6-year limitation period at section 4 of the Limitation Act. (End)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

ASSISTANT NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICER – MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, PETROLEUM AND MINING

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI - CEU-522972-CS-INDV
Duration: Twenty-four (24) Months
Duty Station: Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining.
Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: April 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project”, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of an “Assistant National Planning Officer” for the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-assistant-national-planning-officer-individual-consultant-bz-mfedi-ceu-522972-cs-indv-mof-2026/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.



ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – “Assistant National Planning Officer” –
Blue Cities - [Applicant’s Name].



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICER - MINISTRY OF NATURAL
RESOURCES, PETROLEUM AND MINING

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI - CEU-522972-CS-INDV
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining
Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: April 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project”, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.”

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage the contractual services of a “National Planning Officer” for the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at <https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-national-planning-officer-individual-consultant-bz-ceu-460498-cs-indv-mof-2026/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.



ATTN
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – “National Planning Officer” – Blue Cities
[Applicant’s Name]

DELIVERING ON PROMISES

Development Gains Momentum in Collet



March 12, 2026 - The Collet constituency continues to see steady development as housing, infrastructure improvements, and community projects move forward under the leadership of the area representative, Hon. Devin Daly, the Government of Belize, and the Belize City Council. Recent community activities highlight a growing commitment to improving living conditions and expanding opportunities for residents.

One of the most recent milestones came with the delivery of a new starter home to Collet resident Ms. Morlene Henry. The home represents the third completed under the current housing initiative within the constituency. The program is being carried out with the support of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, which continues to deliver on the promise of PlanBelize 2.0 with local representatives to assist families in securing safe and affordable housing.

The housing effort is part of a broader strategy aimed at addressing longstanding needs in urban communities. By providing starter homes, the government hopes to create greater stability for families while encouraging community growth. For residents like Ms. Henry, the initiative marks the beginning of homeownership and a new chapter for families seeking secure living conditions.

This program is only one piece of the larger development agenda currently underway in Collet. Investments in infrastructure in partnership with the Belize City Council, including drainage clearance and street improvements/upgrades, are also being prioritized. These upgrades are intended to address flooding challenges and improve accessibility for residents.

Land distribution initiatives are another key element of the development strategy. The government continues to work on identifying available parcels and facilitating the process for residents seeking legal access to land. This expands land ownership opportunities and allows families to build homes, invest in property, and strengthen economic stability.

The ongoing efforts received additional attention yesterday when **Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño** visited the Collet area to review progress on the Fabers Road Football Field Community Project. The project is aimed at improving recreational space for residents while creating a safe environment for youth activities and community gatherings.

During his visit, the Prime Minister interacted with students heading home from school and spent time speaking with residents about ongoing initiatives in the constituency. The visit served as a demonstration of this government's continued involvement in monitoring development projects and ensuring that planned improvements are progressing.

Community recreational spaces like the

Continued on page 19



Specific Procurement Notice Camera Network and 911 Emergency Response System Expansion Nº CABEI-G-001-2147/2026 One Stage-One Envelope

March 6, 2026:

1. SOURCE OF RESOURCES

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary partner countries, is granting full financing for the Acquisition, installation, and commissioning of a camera network system and a 911 emergency response system expansion for the Belize Police Department within the framework of the Belize Integral Security Programme.

2. EXECUTING AGENCY AND BUYER OF THE BIDDING PROCESS

2.1 Buyer's background.

The Executing Body (EB) for the BISP is the Ministry of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance. The MET will be responsible for the execution of the Programme and all its components, reporting all progress to CABEI and ensuring the execution of each component under the terms established for CABEI formulation and approval. The execution of BISP components will be carried out by the Co-Executors: Belize Police Department, Belize Defence Force, Belize Coast Guard, and National Forensic Science Services.

2.2 The **Ministry of Economic Transformation** is responsible for the present Procurement process, for which it invites eligible suppliers of goods and services to submit bids for this procurement in a sealed envelope.

2.3 The Supplier will be selected through international competition in accordance with the procedures of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, as established in the Procurement Policy for Procurement of Goods, Works, Services, and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Regulations, which can be found on the following website: <https://www.bcie.org>.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

3.1 General Objectives of the Procurement: Acquisition, installation, and commissioning of a camera network and a 911 emergency response system expansion, along with all necessary components (hardware and software) to ensure a fully functional and operational system for the Belize Police Department.

3.2 The Buyer makes available to interested parties all the documentation related to this Procurement necessary for the preparation of bids.

Such information will be available free of charge:

- For download on the Ministry of Economic Transformations' Website: <http://met.gov.bz/tender/> and the Ministry of Finance's Procurement Portal: <https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/#tender>
- Additional information regarding the preparation of proposals can be communicated by emailing to: cameranetworkexpansion.bisp@met.gov.bz and projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz and copied to adminassistant.bisp@met.gov.bz

Any cost to obtain printed documents is Non-Refundable. The nominal charge amounts needed are to cover printing and shipping costs.

3.3 Bids for this invitation to bid shall be received no later than **Wednesday, April 22, 2026, until 10:00 a.m.** at the following physical address below:

3.4 Bids must be sent to the address below. Bids will not be permitted in electronic form, and no late bids will be accepted. Bids shall be opened publicly, in the presence of the representatives designated by the Bidder, at the address listed below on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.**

3.5 **All Bids must be accompanied by one "Bid Maintenance Declaration".**

3.6 The address mentioned above is:

Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme
#1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit 3
Belmopan City, Cayo District
Belize, Central America

Ref. Belize Integral Security Programme (Nº CABEI-G-001-2147/2026)

Telephone: 501-828-6106

LETTER
TO THE Editor



Youth Supporting
The Progress

Dear Editor,

As a young Belizean, I listened closely to the presentation of the 2026/27 Budget by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, and I believe it is important to recognize the progress our country is making. In a world described as turbulent and uncertain, it is encouraging to see Belize remain resilient and focused on building a stronger future.

What stood out most to me is the clear investment in areas that matter to young people and families: health, infrastructure, economic growth, and education. The continued strengthening of the National Health Insurance program, increased funding for medical supplies through the Central Medical Stores, and support for the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital show a commitment to improving healthcare access for all Belizeans.

Infrastructure development is equally promising. Major investments in upgrading the George Price Highway and the Philip Goldson Highway, as well as the replacement of bridges like the BELCAN Bridge and the Belize City Swing Bridge, will improve connectivity and safety across the country.

The economic indicators also provide hope. With projected growth of 2.3 percent and unemployment reportedly at historic lows, it signals that opportunities are expanding for Belizeans who want to work and build their future here at home.

Education investments such as grants, internet access to schools, and the Healthy Start Feeding Program also demonstrate that the government is thinking about the next generation.

As a young Belizean, I say thank you to Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and his administration for the progress so far, and I remain hopeful for the continued development of our nation.

Sincerely,
Proud Belizean Youth

DELIVERING
ON PROMISES

Continued from page 18

Fabers Road football field are considered an important part of neighborhood development. These facilities provide opportunities for youth engagement, sports activities, and social interaction while helping strengthen community ties.

For Hon. Daly, the combination of housing assistance, infrastructure improvements, land distribution, and community projects reflects a comprehensive approach to development within the Collet constituency.

As projects continue to roll out, residents are seeing visible changes within their neighborhoods—from new homes to upgraded streets and improved public spaces. These developments signal a broader commitment to revitalizing communities across Belize while ensuring that areas like Collet remain a central focus of national development efforts.

With additional initiatives expected to follow, the government remains committed to building stronger homes, stronger neighborhoods, and a more resilient future for the people of Collet and Belize as a whole.

ANRI
Gives Back

Students from the Agriculture and Natural Resource Institute (ANRI) in the Stann Creek District donated fresh vegetables to the Southern Regional Hospital, turning the fruits of their labour into an act of compassion.

More than a simple donation, the initiative reflects ANRI's spirit of community and empathy—students using the skills they are learning to give back to the very community that supports them.

Through hands-on agricultural training, and as beneficiaries of the Belize Education Upliftment Project and the National Healthy Start School Feeding Programme, these students are demonstrating that growth is not only measured in harvests, but in service to others.

#YourMoECST - Making Education Work for Belize!

ANRI
GIVES BACK

This week, ANRI students donated fresh vegetables from their school to the Southern Regional Hospital.



Ministry of Education

f i t y t v



Government of
BELIZE



IMoECST

PREVENT
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

CANCER • DIABETES (SWEET BLOOD) • HYPERTENSION (HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE) • OBESITY

Eating a balanced diet, exercising, avoiding smoking, and drinking less alcohol help to prevent diseases like cancer and diabetes.



BE ACTIVE.
At least 30 minutes daily.



REDUCE.
Eat less fats, sugars and salt.

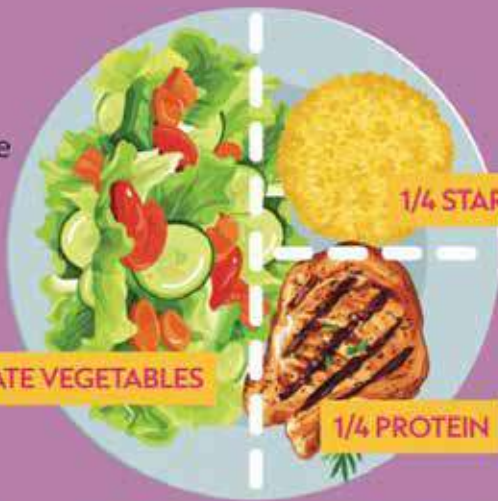


STOP SMOKING.
Drink less alcohol.

EAT HEALTHY

Eating different types of foods from the food groups will ensure that your body receives all the nutrients and other substances it needs to stay healthy.

1. Foods from animals
2. Vegetables
3. Staples
4. Fruits
5. Legumes
6. Fats & Oils



WATER



SAMPLE OF A HEALTHY PLATE

For more information about Non-Communicable Diseases, consult with your healthcare provider at the nearest health facility.



INCAP
Instituto de Nutrición
de Centro América y Panamá

Notice of Severance Payments

BTL is pleased to inform that the majority of severance cheques have been processed and will be available for collection on March 13th and the week of March 16th, 2026, from the Esquivel Telecom Center, No. 1 Saint Thomas Street, Belize City.

Recipients are asked to kindly contact BTL in advance to confirm their collection arrangements prior to visiting our Headquarters by emailing severance@livedigi.com or calling 223-8153.

She Rides, She Leads, She Inspires!

MARCH 15TH

6:30 AM

★ Hosted by: ★
★ Councilor Doreth Pascascio
★ Councilor Alondra De La Fuente
★ Councilor Joesie



★ Empowering Women Through Cycling! ★



Process Expert

Position	Process Expert
Project	"Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize" (also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project)
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background
Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.
Under the Paris Agreement, Belize is obligated to participate in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), a central mechanism designed to provide robust, transparent, and comparable information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation efforts, and support provided or received. The ETF also establishes procedures for international technical expert review and is integral to the global stocktake process that assesses collective progress towards the Agreement's long-term goals.
Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities, including the submission of its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in accordance with ETF requirements. However, to ensure sustained compliance and high-quality reporting under the ETF, Belize must further institutionalize robust quality assurance and quality control procedures, standardized data management processes, and systematic documentation practices.
Belize is implementing its first Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project—Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. The project aims to strengthen the national transparency system through the development of an integrated Transparency Management System, improved data modules (e.g., GHG emissions, adaptation, and NDC tracking), and enhanced institutional coordination. A critical component of this effort is the establishment of clear processes and quality management systems to ensure the integrity, reliability, and traceability of data and reports generated under the ETF.
Therefore, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a Process Expert who will be responsible for designing, strengthening, and overseeing quality assurance and quality control frameworks within the national transparency system. The role will be essential to promote continuous improvement, risk mitigation, and compliance, thereby enhancing the credibility, accuracy, and sustainability of Belize's climate transparency system.

B. Scope of work
The Process Expert will support strengthening the interoperability, institutional arrangements, workflows, and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) framework of the Transparency Management System (TMS) and its four modules (mitigation, adaptation, NDC tracking, and climate finance) to ensure accuracy, efficiency, traceability, and compliance with reporting requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

C. Tasks description
i. Coordinate with the project core technical team to align process assessments and ensure interoperability across the Transparency Management System.
ii. Assess the current status of processes for data collection, processing, storage, use and reporting; and identify roles & responsibilities, potential / existing bottlenecks, duplication, gaps, synergies, risks and any efficiency gains
iii. Map and document all processes (e.g. contact existing and new data suppliers, establishment of monthly / semi-annual / annual data collection cycles, feedback roundtable with data suppliers for adjustments or corrections, channeling of raw data to the corresponding modules, notification to those responsible for each module, collection and compilation of results and data processed in each module, preparation of reports, dissemination of reports in the media to be determined and publication in the observatory, notification to users of the information, coordination with statistical offices, coordination with planning offices, etc.)
iv. Perform QA/QC analysis for the processes, including data collection, of the Transparency Management System and it's four modules, including mitigation, adaptation, NDC tracking and climate finance.
v. Provide technical assistance and guidance to sector leads on reducing data and methodological uncertainties to meet QA/QC requirements.
vi. Develop and implement a QA/QC plan for the sectors covered in Belize's national policies and GHG inventory.
vii. Provide recommendations on processes related to transparency system to strengthen institutional arrangements and workflows
viii. Support quality review deliverables produced by external consultancies
ix. Develop and implement guidance and training material for staff in lead and line agencies on the application of QA/QC procedures in the Transparency Management System
x. Review UNFCCC reporting outputs and the Transparency Management System's generation of Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) reports and UNFCCC reporting tables to ensure internal consistency, traceability and compliance with agreed QA/QC procedures.
xi. Support the Senior Transparency Officer in tasks to ensure QA/QC requirements are met
xii. Support the National Climate Change Office in the execution of additional tasks as mandated by management

D. Institutional arrangements
The Process Expert will report to the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project The Chief Climate Change Officer / Project Director will provide overall oversight of day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the project to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

E. Duty station
The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management located in Belmopan, Belize.

F. Qualification and Experience
Academic Qualifications
i. Bachelor's degree in environmental science, environmental studies, social sciences, public policy, economics, statistics, quality management, project management or a related field is required.
ii. Training or certification in Quality Management, M&E, Results-based Management, or data governance will be an asset
Experience
i. Minimum of 3 years of relevant experience in process design, QA/QC systems, MRV/transparency, or related fields
ii. Experience developing or implementing standard operating procedures (SOPs), workflow documentation will be an asset.

G. Skills and Knowledge
I. Excellent written and verbal English skills.
II. Strong facilitation and moderation skills
III. Interpersonal and teamwork skills to work collaboratively
IV. Sound knowledge of climate change concepts, including mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting issues will be an asset
V. Familiarity with Belize's national climate change frameworks including its NDCs will be an asset
VI. Awareness of international climate processes and frameworks under the UNFCCC including the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework will be an asset
VII. Effectively plans and prioritizes workload.
VIII. Planning, organizing, and analytical skills.
IX. Result-oriented, flexible, and problem-solving skills.

H. Abilities and Competencies
X. Strong facilitation and stakeholder engagement abilities
XI. Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team
XII. Ability to manage multiple tasks and meet tight deadlines
XIII. High level of attention to detail and quality of outputs
XIV. Demonstrated ability to support institutional strengthening processes
XV. Strong communication and report writing skills

I. Application Process
Qualified and interested persons are to submit:
a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;
b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),
c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details
Applications should be identified as – "Application for Process Expert – Your name" in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:
Chief Climate Change Officer
National Climate Change Office
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District
Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz
Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm**. Late submissions will not be considered.
The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.
The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

EULOGY

The Honourable Vincent Parks Thompson

Delivered by the Hon. Dolores Balderamos-Garcia

What does one say about a Phenomenal Woman ??

The famous African American Poet Maya Angelou put it like this: Pretty women wonder where my secret lies. I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size. But when I start to tell them, they think I'm telling lies. I say - It's in the reach of my arms, The Span of my hips, the stride of my step, The curl of my lips. I'm a woman Phenomenally, Phenomenal Woman - That's me!!!

I think that in every way this describes our dearly departed Vincent Delvorne Parks !!!!

She was no ordinary Woman!!! She was Phenomenal!!!! In Every Way!!!!

You have heard of her life and her family. I will humbly try to sum up Phenomenal Woman Vincent Parks Thompson in terms of her public and political experiences and accomplishments.

A true nation builder in the steadfast tradition of George Price, Vincent started her nation Building in her native Bermudian Landing at the time when Hon. Fred Hunter was the Area Representative of Belize Rural North. At the young age of 20, she started what would become an unmatched record of Service to party and country, campaigning and working tirelessly within her beloved People's United Party.

Let me say at the outset that for Vincent it was NOT merely about following the Blue and White. It was about SERVICE to community and COUNTRY in public life.

When Louis Sylvestre had his long tenure in Belize Rural South, Vincent was there every step of way, whether in the River Valley communities OR in Ladyville, Lord's Bank, Caye Caulker or San Pedro, Ambergris Caye.

Upon moving to Lord's Bank she served diligently for sixteen years on the Village Council, Mentored by her father in law Edwin Parks in the early 19 seventies.

Public Service was surely her calling!! When Hon. friend Glenn Godfrey was elected to Belize Rural South there was still full Campaigning and Political Work, Community Service and Election Work. And then of course, Chairperson of Belize Rural Central with our departed Hon. Ralph Fonseca. In full recognition of her sterling contributions, Prime Minister Said Musa appointed her Senator in the Upper House of our National Assembly. And so, from 2003 to 2008, she again served with distinction as Vice President of the Senate for those five years - hence the title of Honorable Vincent Parks Thompson.

Vincent was also an extremely proud member of the Order of Distinguished Service of the People's United Party in addition to remaining and working on the Executive of Belize Rural Central with yours truly, the rest and our colleagues. Vincent NEVER missed a meeting, a march, rally, a work session, convention, campaigning, street captain work or naturally the work of Election Day.

Most recently, she held the Bible at my swearing in as standard bearer for the 2025 General Election, and she joined us for the bye-election for Dr. Osmond Martinez in Monkey River.

Happily, the PUP won in Monkey River for the first time!!! And she, NO doubt, was the one who took the luck!!! She never lost interest in all things related



to making life better for her people through her steadfast commitment to SERVICE. And she received with pride and joy the 75th Anniversary of the PUP Medal and in the company of Honorable Danny Madrid, also of the Order of Distinguished Service.

Finally, again as a member of the ODS, she held the Bible at the swearing in as standard bearers of both Minister Oscar Requena and Dr. Osmond Martinez, having travelled with us down South to the village of San Pedro Columbia, Toledo.

Ladies and Gentlemen and Dear Friends, I and so many others are forever in her debt. Therefore, Dear friends. — Allow me to end how I began, and here with some liberty I paraphrase, the great Maya Angelou:

Pretty Women wonder where her Secret lies,

She's not Cute or Built to suit a fashion model's size, But when she starts to tell them

They think she's telling lies. WE say:

It's in the Stride of her Step, The Curl of her Lips

She is a Woman Phenomenally!!!! Phenomenal Woman

That's Vincent Parks.

Also in the Bend of her Hair, The Palm of her Hand,

And The Need for her Care,

Cause She's a Woman Phenomenally PHENOMENAL WOMAN,

That's Vincent Parks!!!!

Dear Friends, For myself and for our People's United Party Belize Rural Central Committee and on behalf of Prime Minister John Briceño, and the Government of Belize

And on behalf of a Grateful Nation, I Humbly say — REST IN PEACE MS VIN. WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU!!!

CALL
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To place
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the Belize Times
Newspaper



Technical
Administrative
Support Officer

Position	Technical Administrative Support Officer
Project	"Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize" (also referred to as the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project)
Duty Station	National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
Duration	36 months
Location	Belmopan, Belize
Reports to	Chief Technical Advisor
Accountable to	Project Director/Chief Climate Change Officer

A. Background

Belize is a signatory to key international climate change frameworks, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to global climate action. The Government of Belize ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and subsequently acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

Under the Paris Agreement, Belize is obligated to participate in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), a central mechanism designed to provide robust, transparent, and comparable information on greenhouse gas emissions, progress on mitigation and adaptation efforts, and support provided or received. The ETF also establishes procedures for international technical expert review and is integral to the global stocktake process that assesses collective progress towards the Agreement's long-term goals.

Belize has progressively strengthened its national climate reporting and transparency capacities. The country has submitted key climate reports to the UNFCCC, including its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and national greenhouse gas inventories in line with ETF requirements. Despite this progress, Belize's existing systems and capacities require further consolidation to consistently meet ETF requirements and ensure high-quality, timely, and systematic reporting. To address these gaps, Belize is implementing its first CBIT project—Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework. This initiative aims to strengthen the national transparency system through the development of an integrated Transparency Management System, enhanced data modules (e.g., GHG emissions, adaptation, NDC tracking), and improved institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement.

To support the effective implementation of this project, the National Climate Change Office is seeking a Technical Administrative Support Officer. The role will be essential in ensuring timely delivery of outputs, proper documentation of project processes, and effective coordination among stakeholders involved in the implementation of Belize's CBIT project and the strengthening of the national transparency framework.

B. Scope of work

The Technical Administrative Support Officer will oversee the project's administrative and financial activities, providing direct support to the core technical team and consultants to ensure the timely delivery of project outputs. The role will also contribute to strengthening the capacity of the national transparency team, including supporting the training-of-trainers process, with a particular focus on the training components of the transparency system. In addition, this position will be primarily responsible for drafting all reports to the Implementing Agency, including monitoring and evaluation reports such as mid-year Progress Reports and Project Implementation Review Reports.

C. Tasks description

i. Provide logistical and administrative support for project implementation, including consultations, coordination meetings and training sessions.

ii. Support engagement and coordination with higher education institutions and other stakeholders.

iii. Maintain contact databases and support stakeholder communications

iv. Assist in data gathering, compilation, and documentation for project deliverables and reporting requirements.

v. Provide administrative support in the testing and validation of systems and tools developed under the project.

vi. Assist in procurement processes, including canvassing, preparation of requisitions, and coordination with suppliers in accordance with applicable procedures (including GOB and UNEP processes).

vii. Support preparation and tracking of contracts, consultancy agreements, and service providers

viii. Maintain accurate financial records, monitor expenditures against approved budgets, and support financial reporting.

ix. Maintain an organized filing and records management system for all project documentation.

x. Prepare administrative, financial, and progress reports for the Implementing Agency and Project Steering Committee.

xi. Assist in preparing financial documentation for audits and financial reviews

xii. Record and draft minutes of meetings and follow up on action items.

xiii. Track project timelines, milestones, and deliverables to support effective implementation.

xiv. Assist in formatting and finalizing technical reports and presentations

xv. Provide administrative and coordination support to the Chief Technical Advisor and Project Director.

xvi. Perform other administrative and financial tasks as reasonably assigned.

D. Institutional arrangements

The Technical Administrative Support Officer will work under the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor of the CBIT project. The Chief Climate Change Officer/Project Director will undertake the day-to-day supervision and monitoring of the project to ensure that the objectives are achieved.

E. Duty station

The position will be based within the National Climate Change Office located at the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management in Belmopan, Belize

F. Qualification and Experience

Minimum academic qualifications and experience

Bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, economics, accounting, project management or a related field with a minimum of 3 years' professional experience in administrative and accounting work, is required. (Alternatively, candidates without a degree must demonstrate a minimum of 5 years' relevant experience in finance, administrative support, project support or accounting work.)

i. Experience supporting work planning, coordination of meetings/events, procurement, stakeholder engagement, and preparation of documentation for project implementation.

ii. Experience working in financial management of development projects and in liaising and cooperating with government officials, NGOs, mass media, is an asset.

iii. Experience in monitoring and reporting and understanding in transparency management systems is an asset;

iv. Knowledge in / experience in reporting under the UNFCCC is an asset

v. Experience organizing events, workshops, and training sessions, including logistical and reporting support.

vi. Experience/ familiarity working with government procedures for procurement, finance, and project management; familiarity with donor reporting requirements (e.g., UNDP, GCF, World Bank) is an asset.

G. Skills and Knowledge

ii. Familiarity with climate change-related projects, reporting frameworks (NDCs, BTRs, NCs), or MRV systems is desirable.

iii. Ability to compile, process, and check project-related datasets and prepare structured inputs for reports.

iv. Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) with advanced Excel skills; experience with project management software, databases, or statistical tools is an asset.

H. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position;

b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and (include copies of degrees and certifications),

c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details

Applications should be identified as – "Application for Tech Admin Support – Your name" in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one PDF file via email to:

Chief Climate Change Officer

National Climate Change Office

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management

7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District

Email: mrvofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **27 March 2026 at 4:30pm**. Late submissions will not be considered.

The successful applicant will receive written notification of the contract award. Upon selection, the successful applicant must promptly enter into an appropriate contract based on the request for expressions of interest, incorporating any additional provisions as required.

The Ministry reserves the right to cancel this procurement process, at any time before the award of the contract, without incurring any liability.

39th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
Belize & Agri-food Transformation
Digital Innovation and Climate-smart Action

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concluded the 39th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC39), which brought together representatives from countries across the region in Brasília from March 2 to March 6, to define priorities and strategic orientations that will guide the Organization’s work during the 2026–2027 biennium.

During five days of deliberations, Member States examined the main challenges facing agri-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the persistence of hunger and all forms of malnutrition, growing vulnerability to climate change, increasing pressure on natural resources such as water, soils, and forests, and the need to expand public and private investment in the sector.

Participating in the Ministerial Roundtable on Driving agri-food systems transformation: Key triggers and strategies for transforming agri-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, underscored the urgency of accelerating innovation and resilience measures in the face of mounting climate and production risks. He noted, “Pest and diseases which are linked to climate change and environmental factors can affect our Food and Nutrition Security, availability, accessibility & affordability.”

Referencing Belize’s national experience, Minister Ferguson pointed to ongoing threats affecting sugar cane, banana, and citrus production, while highlighting the importance of technical co-operation and coordinated support from regional and international partners to address emerging plant diseases and production risks. He added, “Therefore, as a country and as a region, transforming the agri-food system is a must, and as such we must move towards digital and technological innovation such as precision agriculture, biotechnology, early warning systems, anticipatory actions, and data-driven decisions.”

“Allow me to reiterate FAO’s commitment. We will continue working with Member States to implement the priorities defined here: strengthening food security and nutrition; promoting evidence-based policies; mobilizing investments; advancing technological and digital innovation; reinforcing resilience to crises; and supporting the development of more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems,” said the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Rene Orellana Halkyer.

As a result of the Conference, countries adopted by consensus a final report establishing a regional roadmap to advance towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

Among the key messages emerging from LARC39 was the need to intensify efforts to eradicate hunger in the region, leveraging its significant productive potential and its strategic role in global food security. Discussions also underscored the importance of strengthening evidence-based public policies, promoting technological and digital innovation, and accelerating the adoption of sustainable practices to address the impacts of climate change.

The Conference also highlighted the fundamental role of climate action, sustainable natural resource management, and the One Health approach in ensuring food security and nutrition for populations.

Countries agreed that mobilizing investments will be essential to advancing this agenda, requiring stronger strategic partnerships and efforts to close the financing gaps that hinder the transformation of agri-food systems.

In a global context marked by multiple crises, Member States also reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation, South–South cooperation, and multilateralism as essential tools to address shared challenges and accelerate sustainable development.

The Conference saw broad regional and in-

ternational participation. A total of 512 participants from 32 Member States attended, including one Head of State, 42 ministers, vice-ministers and permanent secretaries, 22 ambassadors, as well as representatives of international organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, parliamentary fronts against hunger, and the private sector.

In addition, more than 7,000 people followed the sessions through FAO’s digital platforms and social media, reflecting growing regional interest in the future of agri-food systems.

With the adoption of the final report, FAO and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean now move toward implementing the agreed priorities, aimed at strengthening food security and nutrition, promoting innovation, mobilizing investment, and reinforcing the resilience of the region’s agri-food systems. (release)



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASSISTANT CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Internal Audit Department.

The Internal Audit Department is an independent, objective assurance and consulting function that evaluates and improves the Central Bank’s internal controls, risk management, and governance processes. The Assistant Chief Internal Auditor conducts specialized audits and leads the assigned team in assessing internal controls, effectively communicating findings and recommendations, and monitoring responses and ameliorative actions.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist the Chief Internal Auditor in the strategic planning and management of the Internal Audit Department.
- Provide guidance and performance management to the audit team, ensuring quality control assurance on audit engagement planning, performance, and reporting.
- Communicate audit findings and recommendations to management.
- Oversee the Internal Audit Department’s continuous monitoring activities to give assurance on the integrity of critical Central Bank processes and systems.
- Monitor and validate the implementation of audit recommendations and management action plans.
- Coordinate and provide training and development opportunities to ensure the audit team meets the Internal Audit Continued Professional Development (CPD) standard.
- Provide expert consultation on the development and installation of systems and procedures and maintenance of a strong and effective control environment.
- Plan, manage, and perform assigned specialized audits.
- Lead investigations into suspected fraudulent activities and report findings to the Chief Internal Auditor.
- Perform other duties necessary to fulfill the requirements of the audit function as assigned.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A recognized professional certification in accounting (CPA/ ACCA) and/or internal auditing (CIA, CISA), with
 - A master’s degree in accounting, banking, or finance from a recognized university, with at least three (3) years of relevant experience; **or**
 - A bachelor’s degree in accounting, banking, or finance with at least six (6) years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of the Central Bank of Belize Act, the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, internal control processes, auditing, and accounting principles; investigative and reporting skills; ability to apply relevant methodologies and tools effectively to audit engagements; computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Communication, Analytical Ability, Job knowledge, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Quality of Output, Decision Making, Delegation and Empowerment, Strategic Management, Coaching and Development

Submit the following documents by **Friday, 13 March 2026:**

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two (2) current references (Both must be professional references)
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P.O. Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Assistant Chief Internal Auditor- Internal Audit Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **YiWen Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Lets Go Supermarket”** located on 5th Street North, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **HuiZhen Chen** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Sunshine View Hotel & Restaurant”** located on Almond Drive, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **RuiXue Luo** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Ruixue Rainbow 1 Supermarket”** located on 3rd Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wanji Wu** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Border Restaurant & Game Shop”** located on Park Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yan Chao Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“San Joaquin Happy Family Supermarket”** located in San Joaquin Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Xin Wen Xu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Central Supermarket”** located on Park Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Fengci Wu** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Perfect Restaurant”** located on 5th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Chunyan Liu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Corozal Gallito Store”** located on 2nd Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zongrong Chen** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Chang Sang Supermarket”** located on 3rd Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jian Jian Lin** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Shun Li”** located on 4th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Chang Jia Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Tang’s Store Corozal”** located on Santa Rita Road, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ailing Huang** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Ben’s Fast Food”** located on 4th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Qingyang Huang** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Best Home Supermarket & Fast Food”** located on 7th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Weida Wu** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“D & L Supermarket”** located on 6th Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **XiaoQing Mark** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“East Store”** located on 4th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Guo Giang Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Circle K”** located on San Andres Road, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yicong Zhen** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“China Store Grocery Shop”** located on Santa Rita Road, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yuming Zhu** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Zhu Ming Store”** located in Sarteneja Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Chucong Zhu** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“One Mall Ltd.”** located in Ranchito Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yihe Zhang** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Lide Grocery Store”** located in San Roman Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Barron Chang** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Moon Distributors Ltd.”** located in Ranchito Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jiafeng Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Z One Store”** located in San Andres Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **JianLiu Wu** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Chopstick Chinese Restaurant”** located at Santa Elena Border, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **YuHeng Lyu** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Sail Fish Restaurant”** located in Sarteneja Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bingyun Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“C & L Grocery Store”** located in Libertad Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **BiFang Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Mei Chen Shop”** located in Caledonia Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jinci Su** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Every Day Supermarket (San Joaquin)”** located in San Joaquin Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **QunFang Tan** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Calcutta Community Supermarket”** located in Calcutta Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wenhao Li** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Wonderful Restaurant”** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhenyi Luo** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“San Narciso Hai Yan Supermarket”** located in San Narciso Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **YangJian Zhao** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“J. Mart Super Store”** located in San Joaquin Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **YanFei Zhen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Tommy Store”** located in Cristo Rey Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhong Jin Luo** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Luo Rainbow Fast Food”** located on 4th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **JiaRong Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Park Way City”** located on 1st Street North, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Tiandi Lai** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Family Supermarket Fast Food”** located on 1st Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **HongChao Wu** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Fry’s Store”** located on Santa Rita Road, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hong Chen Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Corozal Family Supermarket”** located on 1st Street South, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhu Wu Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“New World Supermarket”** located on 7th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shaomei Wu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“New Bridge Supermarket (CZL)”** located on 7th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **DaQuan Li** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Deng Supermarket (Corozal)”** located on 7th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kimmasha D. Mcfield** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **“K3 Cool Spot”** located at # 823 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Francois Chebat** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Belizemo Pizzeria”** located at P.G. International Airport, Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **David Mcdougal** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Grams Place”** located in Georgeville Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Keyron Flowers** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Keyos Co. Ltd.”** located at # 6 San Antonio Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Henry Lopez** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“La Fonda de Nilo.”** located on Otro Benque Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

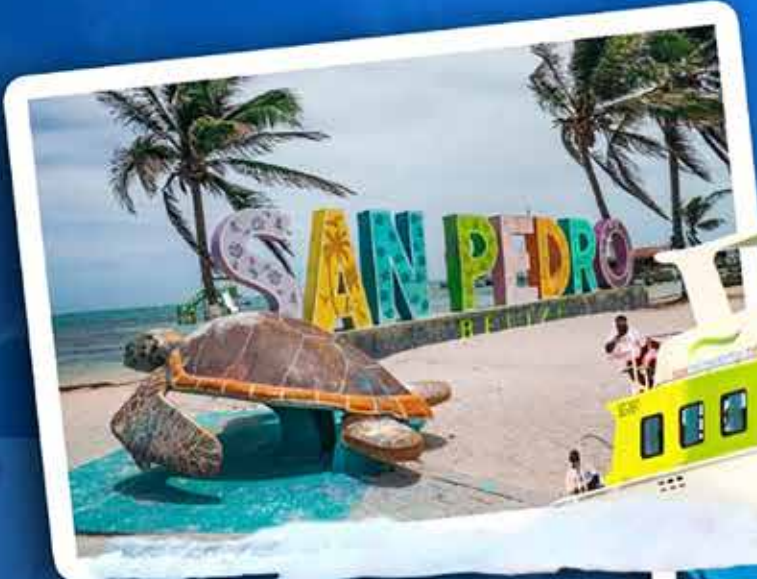
Notice is hereby given that **Angel Magana** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Mia’s Store”** located at # 22 Smithsonian Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sebastian Coc** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Bonus Round”** located at Cor. San Diego/ Douglas Streets, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

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SJCJC Alum Success: CONGRATULATIONS Three-Minute Thesis Triumph Natasha Khatwani's Winning Cancer Immunotherapy Story

By Chad Hanson, February 27, 2026
(<https://news.med.miami.edu/natasha-khatwanis>)

Natasha Khatwani followed up on her University of Miami 3MT victory with a win at the recent southern regionals hosted by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. Natasha Khatwani didn't discover her love for science communication in a med school lecture hall or even in the lab. She discovered it at home, long before she ever stepped onto a Three-Minute Thesis stage.

Khatwani, a cancer immunotherapy researcher who recently earned her Ph.D. from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, won first place at the Southern Regional Three Minute



Thesis (3MT®) Competition hosted by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS). Her winning presentation, which also garnered top honors at Miller School and University of Miami competitions, showcased a promising line of research in lymphoma immunotherapy a personal, lifelong talent for turning difficult concepts into language people can understand. Khatwani said condensing a years-in-the-making thesis to three minutes is not just about speed. 3MT is about who you're speaking to.

"It's for a non-specialist audience," she said. "I first had to condense what my research really means scientifically and then translate it to people who may not have done any college-level science classes."

Her work sits in cancer immunotherapy and explores how the body's immune system reacts to lymphoma. Khatwani studied a molecule called microRNA-29a.

"Increasing this molecule in immune cells can help them survive much longer," she said. "It's almost like giving them a boost of energy."

To explain the mechanism, Khatwani leaned on a phrase many people recall from their own formative education.

"They always say that the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell," she said, adding that line reliably clicks with non-specialists because "they remember it from grade school."

I was surviving through school by breaking things down in the simplest way to myself. It became a way for me to understand the world.

I was surviving through school by breaking things down in the simplest way to myself. It became a way for me to understand the world. From there, she described the work that led to her successful Ph.D. defense in a way anyone can understand. Even when immune cells show up to fight cancer, she explained, they lose energy over time. When that happens, cancer wins.

"But when we boosted this molecule in the immune cells, their mitochondria grew," Khatwani said. "And when they engineered immune cells with microRNA-29a and tested them in



Natasha (third from left, pointing to Belize with members of her research lab) says her childhood prepared her to excel in 3MT competitions.

a lymphoma model, the immune cells resisted exhaustion and were able to kill the cancer cells more effectively."

After her regional win, Khatwani says she may have discovered a discipline that rivals her passion for scientific research.

"I really love making people understand science by breaking down complex concepts," she said.

Perhaps that's because she's been doing it most of her life. She grew up in Belize, but Khatwani's father is from India and her mother from Guatemala. They're non-English speakers, so as Khatwani's education progressed, she developed personal strategies for success.

"I felt like I always had to self-teach. I was surviving through school by breaking things down in the simplest way to myself," she said. "Then I started doing that for my younger siblings, and then for classmates. It became a way for me to understand the world."

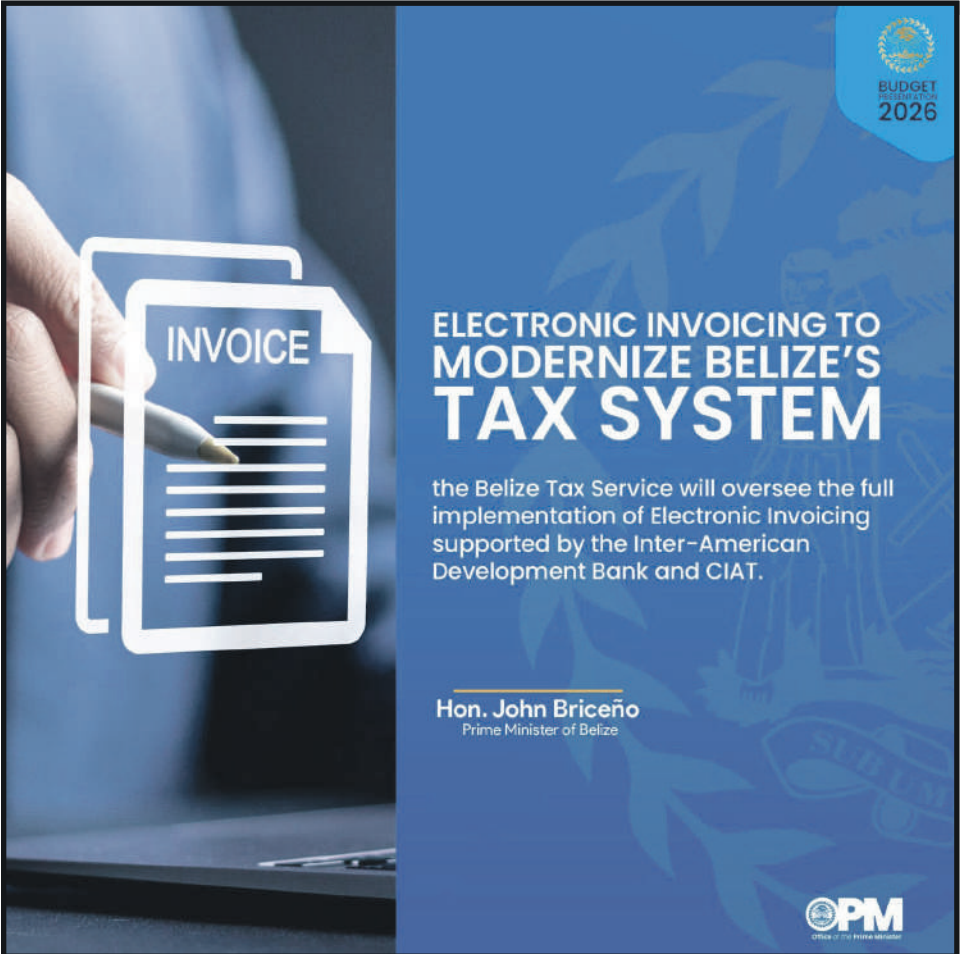
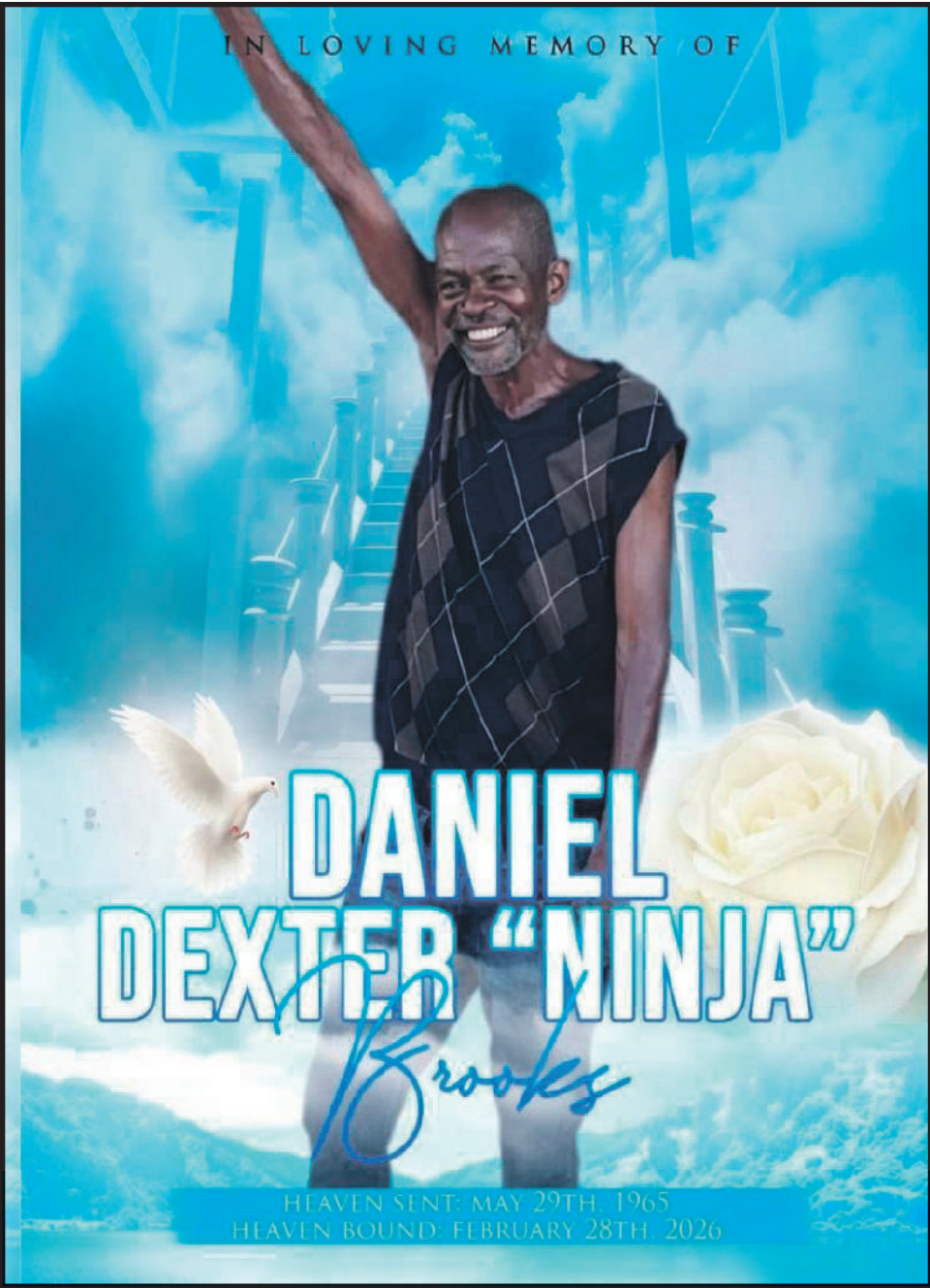
Natasha Khatwani and her lab colleagues pose indoors in front of a large world map, pointing to

different locations on the map in a classroom. Her 3MT victories didn't reveal a new skill. It was a recognizable version of something she's been doing for decades.

"I've been practicing it for about 30 years now, and that's why I was able to do it for the 3MT," she said. "My test audience was truly my family."

As Khatwani continues her work as a post-doc researcher at the Miller School and prepares for upcoming state and national 3MT competitions, she's been thinking about a piece of advice she once heard, and considering other avenues — teaching, perhaps — of professional fulfillment.

"I heard somewhere that the happiest career you can have is when you can find that intersection between doing what you love and doing something you're good at," she said. "Science has always been something I love to do. But with this 3MT competition, I discovered the thing that I might be good at, as well."





MAJOR DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS DRIVING BELIZE FORWARD

- In Health:**
- \$19.1 million for the Construction of a state-of-the-art hospital in San Pedro Town funded by a grant from our highly valued bi-lateral partner, the Republic of China (Taiwan)
 - \$1.9 million for Improving Efficiency, Quality and Access to the Health System
- In Education:**
- \$7.7 million of the Skills for the Future Program funded by the IDB
 - \$5.0 million for National Healthy Start Program
- In Economic Transformation and Financial Management:**
- \$1.06 million for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program (an IDB funded project to contribute to sustainable urban development of municipalities in northern Belize)
 - \$1.0 million for the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project (a World Bank project funded by IDA resources to support San Pedro Town, Belize City and Punta Gorda through capacity building, policy development and infrastructure improvements)
 - \$1.0 million in Tax Administration
 - \$3.0 million for Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development
 - \$1.0 million to Strengthen Public Expenditure Management
 - \$5.0 million for Integral Security
 - \$1.7 million for Global Fund Health Programs
- In Infrastructure Development**
- \$21.9 million for the Upgrading of the George Price Highway from Belize City to Hattieville
 - \$15.5 million for the Upgrading of the Philip Goldson Highway
 - \$9.5 million for the Belcan Bridge Replacement Project
 - \$2.8 million for the upgrading of the Corozal to Sarteneja Road

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



MORE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS ACROSS BELIZE

Expanding Opportunities: Enrolling MORE Students Today.

The Education Upliftment Project (EUP): Together We Rise eliminates financial barriers for families across Belize. At its launch in the 2022/2023 academic year, the program supported 947 students across four secondary schools.

In the 2026/2027 fiscal period, the Education Upliftment Project will expand to 27 secondary schools, reaching over 14,000 students – an increase of more than 13,000 beneficiaries, representing growth of over 1000% in less than four years.

In 2026/2027, 100% of students enrolled in government secondary schools nationwide will attend school for free. Over 60% of all secondary school students in Belize will benefit from free education, providing significant financial relief to more than 8,500 families.

In total, over 19,000 students, representing 83 percent of all secondary school students, benefit from partial or full financial assistance.

The National Healthy Start Feeding Program will expand to benefit around 20,000 primary and secondary students, with a total investment of approximately \$10 million, reinforcing the government's commitment to healthy, well-nourished students ready to learn.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



The 2026/2027 budget will further enhance existing school bus routes and expand with an **additional 15 runs.**



NATIONAL BUDGET
PRESENTATION 2026/27

Ministry of Education



BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026/2027



“Government continues to take decisive steps to **strengthen** and **modernize** Belize’s electricity sector. We will add **40 megawatts of solar and 20 megawatts of battery energy storage system** to the national grid.”

STRONGER FISCAL
PERFORMANCE
FOR BELIZE

Government’s spending on salaries for its estimated 15,000 workforce – all teachers and public officers – was 598 million dollars, with an additional 123 million dollars spent on pensions and ex-gratia payments. Put differently, 58 cents of every dollar of government recurring spending goes to salaries and pensions. And put another way, 45 cents out of every dollar of tax collected are spent on just these two categories.

Here is the bottom line: Government attained a primary surplus of 1.40 percent of GDP and an overall deficit of 0.49 percent, significantly out-performing the approved budget targets of 1.52 percent of GDP and minus 0.60 percent of GDP, respectively.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY
DRIVING ECONOMIC
GROWTH

Within this evolving global environment, Belize's economy continued its steady forward movement. Real GDP growth for 2025 is estimated at 1.9 percent by the Central Bank of Belize, a moderation from the 3.5 percent expansion in 2024. Our nation is transitioning from the rapid post-pandemic rebound toward more sustainable, pre-pandemic growth conditions.

The primary sector—our agriculture, fisheries, and mining industries—was the main driver of this expansion. Farmers and producers delivered strong outputs across corn, soybeans, bananas, citrus, livestock and marine products. These gains were significant enough to offset the sharp decline in sugarcane production caused by adverse weather and the spread of the Fusarium disease. Their resilience reflects not only hard work but also the deep strength of Belize's rural economy.

Nonetheless, other key private service industries—particularly financial intermediation and business process outsourcing—continued to post strong, encouraging gains.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

OPM
Office of the Prime Minister

BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

ACCESS TO WORLD
BANK IDA FINANCING

In February 2024, Belize became eligible to access the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) financing on highly concessional terms. These terms include 40-year credits with a 10-year grace period and a 30-year repayment period, with interest rates linked to prevailing SDR rates of approximately 1 to 2 percent per annum.

In May 2025, IDA approved the Blue Cities and Beyond Project valued at US\$23.5 million.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

OPM
Office of the Prime Minister

Government of
BELIZE

BUDGET PRESENTATION 2026/2027

“This government will *replace* the *Belize Swing Bridge* and *Belcan Bridge*, projects which will commence very shortly and will *transform the landscape of Belize City.*”

HON. JOHN BRICEÑO
Prime Minister of Belize

Government of
BELIZE

BUDGET PRESENTATION 2026/2027

“A promise of NHI care is empty without the infrastructure to deliver it. We are partnering with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to *upgrade polyclinics in key districts* and, crucially, *to address the human resource gap.*”

HON. JOHN BRICEÑO
Prime Minister of Belize

BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

BELIZE'S ECONOMY
IS GROWING
AND DELIVERING PROSPERITY

The seeds have started to sprout, stirring our nation to a seminal surge in prosperity.

The pillars of sustained prosperity include diversified growth, robust employment, a strong currency, ample credit and a government that invests in the welfare of its people through education, healthcare, infrastructure and security.

This year, the projection is 2.3% growth. The latest employment report by the Statistical Institute of Belize shows a historic low of 2.0 %. In other words, 98 of every 100 who sought work, found work. The Belize dollar remains firmly fixed to the US dollar at 2 to 1, backed up by \$1.1 billion in Central Bank reserves and \$737.5 million in commercial bank external assets.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

OPM
Office of the Prime Minister

BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

GOVERNMENT DELIVERS
MAJOR SALARY INCREASES
FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS

In the upcoming fiscal year, public officers, teachers and security personnel, will benefit from another 4.0% in salary increases, valued at \$28.5 million on an annual basis. This will be in addition to last year's increase of 4.5% or some \$31.5 million. In total, government has pledged wage and pension increases valued at \$78.7 million for this fiscal year, surely an impressive adjustment by any measure.

Today's Budget proposals will lift even higher our standing and spirits, fulfilling this government's commitment to boosting prosperity and opportunity for every Belizean.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

OPM
Office of the Prime Minister





BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

BELIZE REMAINS STRONG, RESILIENT AND FUTURE-FOCUSED

In this period of widespread upheaval the proud truth is that Belize continues to shine as a distinctive land – steadfast, resilient and future-focused.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



Office of the Prime Minister

In 2026/2027, all students enrolled in government secondary schools nationwide *will attend school for free.*



NATIONAL BUDGET
PRESENTATION 2026/27

Ministry of Education

Government of BELIZE MoECST







BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

MODERNIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY

The Government, with technical assistance support and potential funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is embarking on a program of Civil Service Modernization.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



Office of the Prime Minister

PUP

PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

THE BELCAN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Belcan Bridge was built in 1969 after the Belize City Swing Bridge received extensive damage when Hurricane Hattie struck in 1961, and has served Belize City for the past 57 years. However, an assessment of its structure in the latter part of 2021 revealed extraordinary deterioration of its foundation supports that were past repair.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize





BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026



Office of the Prime Minister

Over 60 percent of all secondary school students in Belize will benefit from free education, providing significant financial relief to more than 8,500 families.



NATIONAL BUDGET
PRESENTATION 2026/27

Ministry of Education

Government of BELIZE MoECST



RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP REDUCES NATIONAL DEBT

The record shows that after inheriting a debt load that was north of 130 percent of annual GDP, this Administration slashed that debt ratio in half.

Today, Belize's public debt is considered to be on an absolutely sustainable foundation but not only by the IMF but also by the international rating agencies.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

Statement by the Government of Belize

Belmopan, March 12, 2026.

The Government of Belize is aware of the public circulation of a letter from the Chairman of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs addressed to the United States Secretary of State, requesting the Department of State to conduct an assessment of Belize's investment climate and institutional checks and balances.

Belize is a stable democracy, has confidence in its judicial system, and shares a longstanding and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship with the United States. The Government of Belize will cooperate fully with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs and the U.S. State Department to provide any information or clarification that would assist in their assessment of Belize's investment climate.

Encouraging foreign direct investment is a priority for the Government of Belize. The Government has implemented extensive improvements to Belize's enabling environment for businesses through modernising legal frameworks, streamlining and digitalising regulatory processes, expanding incentive programs for foreign investors, and proactive engagement with investors and the wider private sector. These improvements have resulted in notable increases in foreign direct investment net inflows. Indeed, in the last two years alone, Belize has benefited from approximately \$505 million in net investment flows.

The Government of Belize is firmly committed to advancing good governance and upholding the rule of law. In the Central American region, Belize is currently ranked as having the second lowest perceived corruption on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and is ranked third on the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index. Additionally, the Government of Belize has made significant investments in modernising the judiciary through infrastructure upgrades and supporting initiatives aimed directly at reducing case backlog. The Government is of the firm belief that a strong and independent judiciary is key to a stable democracy and an enabling business climate.

Regarding the compulsory acquisition of the Stake Bank extension, this matter was adjudicated by the High Court of Belize, which held that the acquisition was constitutional. The Claimants have proceeded to appeal that decision in the Court of Appeal of Belize. As the matter remains sub judice, the Government of Belize reserves detailed discussion of the case until the legal process has reached its final conclusion. (GoB release)

THE PORT OF BELIZE

The US450 million dollar upgrading of the Port of Belize at Port Loyola in Belize City persists as a high priority project, critical for trade and for tourism.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize

BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

RECORD INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

This year we will be appropriating a record \$488.6 million dollars to our Capital II Budget – that is the portion of the overall capital program that is funded from general revenue as opposed to donor financing.

For Infrastructure Development:

- \$21.9 million for the upgrading of the George Price Highway from Belize City to Belmopan
- \$8.0 million for the upgrading of the Philip Goldson Highway from Mile 8 to Mile 24
- \$4.0 million for Specialized Equipment
- \$9.0 million for Low Income housing
- \$4.6 million for the Santa Familia Bridge
- \$3.8 million for the replacement of the Belize City Swing Bridge
- \$3.5 million for the replacement of the BELCAN Bridge
- And, a combined total of some \$48 million for the continued maintenance of roads, streets, and drains countrywide.

For Health:

- \$57.0 million for the Operationalization of the National Health Insurance Program (representing a \$7.0 million increase over the previous year)
- \$52.5 million for Central Medical Stores (representing a \$20 million increase over the previous year)
- \$33.7 million for Operational Support for the KHMVH

For Education:

- \$2.6 million for the Healthy Start Feeding Program
- \$2.2 million for Internet to schools
- \$13.0 million for Education Grants

BUDGET
PRESENTATION
2026

“This fiscal year 2026-2027 is for *expansion and investment of NHI*. We are expanding NHI coverage to include the entire Cayo District, offering services to *325,000 persons countrywide*.”

HON. JOHN BRICEÑO
Prime Minister of Belize



Government of
BELIZE

BUDGET PRESENTATION 2026/2027

BELIZE DEFENCE FORCE

Celebrating
WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH



Mercy Lane Now Open Following Major Upgrade



Another street improvement delivered.

The Belize City Council is pleased to announce the completion of the cementing of Mercy Lane, which is now fully open to residents, businesses, and commuters.

This upgrade significantly improves accessibility, safety, and durability, ensuring a stronger roadway for the many people who rely on this corridor every day.

Mayor Bernard Wagner, Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, and Caribbean Shores Area Representative Hon. Kareem Musa visited the newly completed street to view the finished works and mark the completion of this important infrastructure improvement.

This project was made possible through the partnership of Heritage Bank Limited, and we extend sincere thanks to Executive Chairman Mr. Stephen Duncan and the Heritage Bank team for supporting infrastructure development in Belize City.

Partnerships like these continue to help transform our neighborhoods and deliver real results for our residents.

The work continues.



Our National Telecom

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

High School & Sixth Form Applications
NOW AVAILABLE
Learn more at www.livedigi.com/scholarship



APPLY TODAY

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026

GO FURTHER!

BUILDING BELIZE THROUGH HISTORIC CAPITAL SPENDING

At \$780 million, the wages and pensions charges account for almost 11% of GDP – one of the highest in the region and therefore something that we have to keep under tight control.

Reflecting our determination to direct the maximum possible resources to public sector capital investments, and specifically to funding the Medium-Term Economic Strategy, this year's capital spending is the highest amount ever, at \$606.8 million and the highest percentage ever of total spending, at 32 percent.

During this fiscal year, Belize GDP is forecasted to exceed \$7.4 billion of annual output.

In this budget year, Government will receive \$1.79 billion in revenues and grants while it expects to spend some \$1.92 billion. Of this amount, some \$780 million will be spent on salaries and pensions, while some \$264 million will be spent on goods and services and another \$60 million will be allocated to subsidies and current transfers. Debt service will account for some \$189 million. Capital spending is estimated at \$606 million. Amortization is estimated at \$140 million.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



Congratulations!



25 YEARS OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

Have you Registered?

COMING UP: MID-FEBRUARY IN CAYO & BELMOPAN







UNLOCKING CLIMATE FINANCE FOR BELIZE'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Global Fund, the IDB, the European Unit – to name a few.

Key Achievements already realized and, on the horizon, include the following:

- Approval of the Green Climate Fund for the Ministry of Economic Transformation to act as a direct beneficiary of the GCF's Readiness Funding
- A US\$38.8 million grant from Green Climate Fund and other partners for the Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sugarcane Farmers in Northern Belize (Bac-Suf) Program.
- A US\$10 million loan from the IDB CLIMA for Caye Caulker Water and Sanitation System; and
- Technical Assistance from the IDB for the development of a framework for the issuance of Green Bonds with a potential value of US\$20 million.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



...CONTINUED



RECORD INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

For Education:

- \$2.6 million for the Healthy Start Feeding Program
- \$2.2 million for internet to schools
- \$13.0 million for Education Grants

For Social and Community Development:

- \$6.2 million for Constituency Development Programs
- \$5.1 million for Community Support and Small Grants Programs
- \$3.5 million for Grocery and Food Assistance
- \$1.5 million in Assistance to Small Farmers
- \$4.5 million for Youth Anti-Violence Multi Sectoral Programs
- \$5.4 million for Social Transformation Programs

For Land Development:

- \$18.0 million for land acquisition payments and land surveys.

For Sporting Facilities:

- \$1.6 million for Maintenance of Sports Facilities.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize





NATS 2026

National Agriculture & Trade Show 2026

Opening ceremonies
April 30
Events May 1, 2, 3

Call to find out more about booths
608-6639





BELIZE TOURISM BOARD

Hospitality Sprint Series 2026



March 5 - The first stop of our Hospitality Sprint Series 2026 – the Guest Service Gold Training was a full house with over 45 tourism professionals from across Ambergris Caye and Caye Caulker!



For three impactful days, participants engaged in hands-on and role-play activities, culminating with the official AHLEI exam led by Certified Hospitality Trainer Hugo Panti, and supported by BTB's Vanessa Jacobs-Morey and Tracey Dawson.

Today, we celebrate over 45 newly certified, globally recognized Guest Service Gold professionals raising the standard of service excellence in Belize.

Next Up:
San Ignacio, Cayo | March 10–12
Belize City | March 16–18

Want in? Scan the QR code on the flyer, complete the application, and email it, along with a copy of your Social Security card, to elevatetraininginstitute@belizetourismboard.org.

Cayo and Belize City — we are bringing the momentum your way! Spaces are limited.



BELIZE TOURISM BOARD



AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE



ELEVATE TRAINING INSTITUTE

HOSPITALITY SPRINT SERIES 2026

GUEST SERVICE GOLD TRAINING

MARCH 2026

SOLD OUT

SAN PEDRO
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM DAILY

10-12

SAN IGNACIO
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM DAILY

16-18

BELIZE CITY
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM DAILY

WHO CAN APPLY

- Frontline hospitality professionals
- Guest service agents
- Restaurant & food and beverage staff
- Housekeeping professionals
- Supervisors & team leaders
- Hospitality managers
- Tourism industry employees seeking certification

Ideal for working professionals with industry experience who are ready to earn an internationally recognized credential.

EXCLUSIVE RATE

\$150 BZD
(LIMITED TO FIRST 150 PARTICIPANTS, \$300 REGULAR RATE)

Scan the Code to Apply:



WHY ENROLL?

- ✓ Earn a globally recognized hospitality credential
- ✓ Receive dual certification from AHLEI and BTB upon successfully passing the exam
- ✓ Learn from AHLEI Certified Hospitality Trainers
- ✓ Experience engaging, in-class interactive learning

Limited seats available!

For more information, you can contact us directly at elevatetraininginstitute@belizetourismboard.org or WhatsApp (501)628-9684

BELIZE ACHIEVES RECORD-LOW UNEMPLOYMENT

In 2025, Belizean households experienced a meaningful easing of price pressures. Inflation fell to 1.1 percent, down sharply from 3.3 percent in 2024 and the near-record high of 6.3 percent in 2022, supported by lower fuel and communication costs and the continued normalization of international supply and freight conditions.

Our labour market performed exceptionally well. Unemployment fell to a historic low averaging 2.0 percent in 2025, down from 2.6 percent the year before, driven by job creation in service-oriented industries, particularly wholesale and retail trade, as well as in the tourism sector. More Belizeans entered the labour force, and wage growth outpaced inflation—strengthening real incomes and boosting purchasing power for families across the country.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



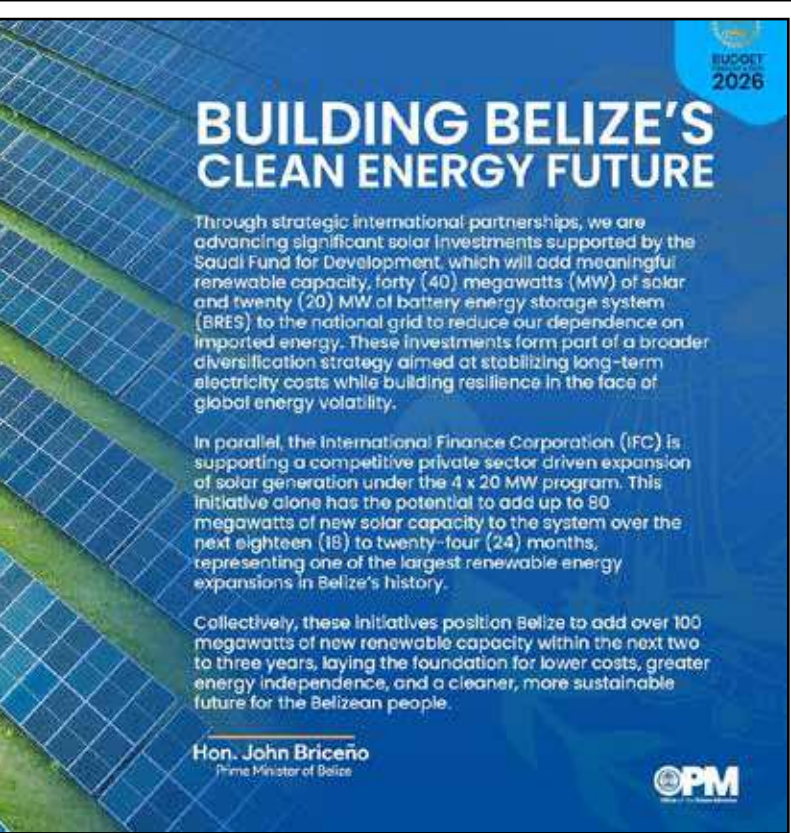
BUILDING BELIZE'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Through strategic international partnerships, we are advancing significant solar investments supported by the Saudi Fund for Development, which will add meaningful renewable capacity, forty (40) megawatts (MW) of solar and twenty (20) MW of battery energy storage system (BRES) to the national grid to reduce our dependence on imported energy. These investments form part of a broader diversification strategy aimed at stabilizing long-term electricity costs while building resilience in the face of global energy volatility.

In parallel, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is supporting a competitive private sector driven expansion of solar generation under the 4 x 20 MW program. This initiative alone has the potential to add up to 80 megawatts of new solar capacity to the system over the next eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months, representing one of the largest renewable energy expansions in Belize's history.

Collectively, these initiatives position Belize to add over 100 megawatts of new renewable capacity within the next two to three years, laying the foundation for lower costs, greater energy independence, and a cleaner, more sustainable future for the Belizean people.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize



Inaugural Meeting GoB - National Cacao Committee

March 6, 2026 - The Government of Belize launched the inaugural meeting of the National Cacao Committee (NCC), uniting public and private stakeholders to chart the future of Belize's cacao industry. Established by Cabinet in January 2026, the Committee serves as the Government's principal platform for institutionalizing a national approach to developing cacao as a new growth sector, particularly in southern Belize, where the industry supports rural livelihoods and indigenous farming communities.

Stakeholders outlined the current state of the sector and agreed on key priorities for the next 12 months:

- Expand national production and processing capacity.
- Invest in digital systems such as a national farmer registry and farm mapping.
- Improve physical infrastructure, including farm access roads.
- Advance legal reforms to strengthen the sector's governance framework.

Members also explored legislation to guide industry development and certification systems to enhance Belize's competitiveness in premium international markets.

Participants welcomed the inaugural meeting as a milestone more than a decade in the making and reaffirmed their commitment to a coordinated national effort to strengthen the industry. Co-led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Rural Transformation, the Committee will advance its work through three technical groups focused on agribusiness development, infrastructure development, and legal reform and compliance. Together, these groups will drive implementation, mobilize resources, and strengthen Belize's position as a leading origin for high-quality cacao. (release)



COROZAL TOWN COUNCIL
PRESENTS

RECYCLED aRT COMPETITION

On the Occasion of
International
WOMEN'S
Day



The Challenge

- Open to STD 4- 6 Primary School students in Corozal Town.
- Create an original art piece using recycled materials (metal, plastic, cardboard, etc.)

**Theme: Empowering
Women/ Balance the Scale**

Specifications

- Size: Maximum base/height of 50 cm x 50 cm x 60 cm
- Materials: 80%+ must be recycled; label or include a small list of what you used and where it came from.

Submission Deadline

18TH MARCH, 2026

Winners will be determined through public online voting on the official Corozal Town Council Facebook Page.

★ Winning artwork will be proudly displayed at the Town Council!

PRIZES

1st PLACE- \$150 + BASKET

OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

2ND PLACE- \$100

3RD PLACE- \$50

For more info contact Councillor
Marleni Tapia at 671-4705

